

*R 2715.*  
The Husbandlye ordring and  
Gouernmente of  
Poultre.

Practised by the Lear-  
nedste, and suche as haue bene  
knowne skilfullest in that  
Arte, and in our  
tyme.



Imprinted at London,  
by Thomas Purfoote, for  
Gerarde Dewse.

1581.

of the  
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Government of  
Roultie  
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known to be in that  
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Printed at London  
by Thomas P. Aylmer, for  
George Danks.  
1841

# To Mistrisse Katherine

Woodford (vvife to maister James  
Woodforde Esquier) and cheefe Clarke  
of the Kitching to the Queenes Ma-

iestie Leonarde Maltall vvisheth a prospe-  
rous estate in health long to  
continue.



He remēbraunce of your  
VVorshipfull Parentes,  
gentle mistrisse VVood-  
forde, vnto whome my  
father & his family haue  
alwayes borne good vvill, and you  
shewing likewise a continuall courtes-  
ie towards me and them, perceiuing  
also youre vvise and orderlye vsing  
your house for your familie & hous-  
holdes vvith a desired minde to fur-  
ther the same in knowledge, howe to  
vse and gouern Poultrie to profit for  
maintenance of your said house kee-  
ping, which thing you haue bene de-  
sirous to know, vvith the ordning of  
straunge vvildtoule, how to preserue  
and keepe them to pleasure and pro-

A, ij.

fitc,

**THE EPISTLE**  
fite. I hauing known your parents (in  
Brestall) and you from my youth,  
shewing herein my good wil towards  
you and your fathers house, to far-  
ther and pleasure your desired minde  
therein, the remembraunce thereof  
hath moued me at this present to en-  
terprise and translate out of Frenche  
Columella and Stephanus into Eng-  
lish, certaine orders for gouernment  
of the sayd poultrie, and also the or-  
dring of diuers other vvildfoule, becs-  
sides manye other approued collecti-  
ons & practises learned in this realm,  
necessary to bee knowne to all good  
housholders, desiring you to bee the  
patrone and defender hereof in print,  
in so doing I shall thinke my trauaile  
vvell bestowed, and my time vvell  
spent. Thus I leaue, vvishing you a  
prosperous estate, vvith increase of  
vvorship long to continue to the ples-  
sure of God.

Finis.

# To the Reader.



**D**o so much gentle Reader, as  
beasts and Cattaille is profita-  
ble to mans living, so is also  
poultrie and other foule a good  
thing for the common wealch, and speci-  
ally to them that are housekeepers, as  
well for the Gentleman, as the husbando-  
man, and to farther the mayntainance of  
the same, I have taken some paynes ther-  
in, which here thou shalt finde gentle rea-  
der, as well for the wilde foule as others,  
such order for the gouernment thereof, as  
hath not here befoze bene written, or re-  
uealde in our english tongue, with a  
reby table by Alphabet, to find  
out any thing herein  
contayned.

(.v.)

by L.M. 1581.

*The*

## *The Argument.*

**T**He gouernemente of Poultrie is  
cheefe thing to be maintained for  
the state and keeping of a house, which  
thing in respect, al mens houses ought  
to haue, speciallye the Husbandmanne  
who ought to haue vnderstanding her  
in, how to rule and gouern the same a  
bout his house, in which they ought to  
be carefull from time to time, as vve  
how to saue them as, to breede them, a  
hereafter shall more plainely appeare  
Taken forth of *Columella* and *Stephanus*  
in frenche, vvith diuers other  
approoued pra-  
ctises.

*The*

# The nourishing and go- uernment of Poultrie.

## The Order of Columella for the hennehouse. *Cap. 1.*

**F**irst it shall bee good to make and pre-  
pare you a henhouse to lane and keepe  
your poultrve in, and so to set it if ye can  
at the east end of your house, made close, &  
enclosed beneth with stone, or other wayes  
made strong, that no vermyne may breake  
in to them by night: made wyth perch and  
nestes within for them to lay and sitte in  
when breeding time shall bee: or at other  
times to laye in, and to place your hennes  
aboue from your other poultry, and your  
Duckes and Geese beneath, each by them  
selues, that they may not fight one with  
another, for they will not so well loue the  
house, but laye and sitte in corners, and  
hedges and out places abroad, and there-  
by they are often kilde.

Againe ye shal make the like nestes be-  
neath for your duckes and geese, as aboue  
for your hennes, and your duckes placed  
by

## The nourishing and

by themselves, and your Geese themselves  
and to see that your henhouse bee close  
thed round about above, for feare of W  
ues by night, and other daungers, and  
that ye make places for them all abou  
the sides of the henhouse to sit, and to lay  
in, with separations eche by himselfe, al  
ye shall use to feede them before the hen  
house doore morninges and eveninges  
whiche will cause the yong poulters to  
better to loue the hennehouse, and to  
them so nightlye, will cause them and the  
olde hennes to seeke no other place to la  
or rooste in. Thus much of Colu  
mella for the henne  
house.

Th

## gouernment of Poultre.

### ¶ Stephanus Opinion. *Cap. 2.*

¶ Our Henne house ought to be built on the orient or east part of your house, by some smoke house or kitchin, that y<sup>e</sup> smoke (whiche is very good for poultry) may come vnto them. And your henne house to be made of one length and one roome of height, turning towardes the orient or east part of the house, and ye shall make other in the side or end, one narrow entering for them to laye, & come to roost at night, ye shall also make a pertitiō aboue for the hennes to sitte, with perches thereon, not sette very hye from that floure, & placed one perche a foote from another, and also halfe a foote one perch aboue another, and set so wide as they may be vii foote square within the perches, and on the middest ye shall make two entres, one on the right side, & another on the left side, which shall be good to goe and come to the other two houses. This entres shall be made at the endes ioyning to the walles, whiche is to be made eache against other in conuening into the house, against which wall shalbe made such moderate fire, in such sort their entering be not let, and also looke that the

B.

smoke

## The nourishing and

smoke do not annoy þ other house of your fowle, the roome for your hennes to sit & lay in, must be sette vii. foote high, and to bee made as large as halfe the height of more.

Also ye shall make in eache separation, a small window against the east side of your house, that the poultry maye see daye to come forth amornings into þ court to feed, and lyke wise ye must haue a care to shut the doze of their entring when they bee come in to rooste at night, to be the more assured of them, and to leaue those wyndowes open, which are made with lathes, so made that no vermine may come in to deuoure the by night, for they must haue some cleare light to see the better when they go to roost, and those persons that do keepe them, ought to see specially to those that do sitte, and ready to hatche, or haue new hached, for else there will be soone some losse of them. Your Separations within, ought to be made close and strong: that one do not trouble another of them that do sitte, or hatche their young. Some do take it to be a very good waye to sticke poles before in dyuers places of your hen house walles, and thereon to hang pamp-  
ers

## gouernment of Poultrie.

ets of baskets for your hennes to laye & breed in. Also ye must put in each nest a nest egge, which will cause the hennes to laye therein the sooner: & ye must so place your perches acrosse, that your hennes may come and flye easily vnto their nests from tyme to tyme, and ye muste alwayes see that your henhouse be kept cleane: for when it lyeth foule, it will cause the poultry to forsake the house, & to seeke abroad some other cleaner place to roost in: for it is not good for them to roost where much of their dung is, because it will cleaue vnto their feete, whiche will cause them to haue the goutte in their feet, for this cause they cutte theyr perches square for them to roost on, for if they be round they cannot so well sit thereon. These perches being made square, they make two holes in the walles of each side of the henne house, and puts the perches therein, so that they be not in heighe from the floure two foot, and the one to bee set as farre from the other, so that the poultrye shall not stryue one with the other for theyr places: and after this sorte is the best waye to make a henne house for your poultry to rooste in.

## The nourishing and

Also ye shall make some place in theyre coorte, to haue alwaies redy water for the, when they haue fedde. It is not good to haue water for them but in one place, to drinke in, and that the water be kept alwaies cleane: for if the water be foule and salt, it wil make the haue the rye or rume, and it will increase also the pippe on their rungs. Therefore ye must not keepe them from water, whiche water would be sette in vessels after this manner. Some prepare troughes of leade to put their water & meat in: but it is most certain, those that are made of wood or burnt earth, are most wholesome and best for them, the whiche vessels (for water) ought to bee couered aboue, the one halfe of the vessell whereas the water is, & therein to haue holes halfe a foote asunder, wherein the poultry may put their heads & drinke when they haue eaten: for if ye couer not their water, they will sone marre it with theyr feet. Some do make vessels with holes in the couer aboue, whiche waye is not so good: for the poultry when they are aboue thereon, they will dung into it, whiche will defile and marre theyr water. And see that no lathes

## gouernment of Poultrie.

or holes be broken, and that they perches be straight and euen set for them to sit on. Also in some places asloone as the poultry is gone forth in y<sup>e</sup> morning, they do cleanse the henhouse once or twyle a weeke, and puts their dung aparte for to helpe the garden, and also medowes, & they pennes & nests must be often refreshed with cleane strawe, and the henne house windowes or boze ought to bee shut vppe asloone as the sunne is downe, and opened againe in the morning with the rising of the sun. Theit troughes also in winter twyle a day to be cleansed, & thysle a day in sommer, so that alwayes their water maye be freshe and cleane. It shall be good also to caste some fresh straw often beside the Duinghill, and also befoze the henhouse, whereas the pullets do vse to scrape, and to mixe it with some sand, ashes, or duste: to giue them a pleasure to scrape & to baskie them in the sunne, which they will doo to cleanse their fethers: and looke ye call farre from your house your pomes of fruite or wyne when as ye streyne them, for the eating thereof doth coole your hennes, & do let them from laying. Also let there be no bright yron

## The nourishing and

set vp in the henhouse: for the brightnesse thereof will make them to gaze thereat, & so feare them, that they will go npe to forsake the house: ye must see also to auoyde the danger of Owles, Cats, Foxes, Weasils, and Polecats, with such lyke, which will nigholy deuoure all that they maye come by: and likewise on the dape, wyth Buzzardes, and Buttockes, Kites, Wyres & Crowses, whiche often destroyeth their egges abroad, and also in their henhouses, if places therein be open: they will also deuoure yong Chickens, Ducklings, & Goslings vnder their dammes, or if their dammes be not nigh them, or for lacke of good tendauce. Also whereas the henne oft tynes wil depart from hir chickens (as Ispaine loseth one) as to fly on walles, or pales, or such like: ye shal therefore clippe the endes of her great fethers of one of her wings, and not once to suffer them to enter into your garden, for if they cathe once your Garden when they are yong, & by long custome being there brought by, they will commonly after loue the same place where they are so brought by in, & by that meanes ye shal haue your Garden

ben

## gouernment of Poultrie.

ben spilt, & it will hinder them from lay-  
ing : as for the Cokes and Capons, it is  
thought good not to shortē or clippe their  
wings : therfore yee must vse to binde or  
sette thornes, or lay bushes of thorne on  
your walles, toppes of pales, or lowe hed-  
ges: or else with lath nailde to the toppes  
of your pale postes, and then put thozow  
your laths pacted, brest high of a Cock,  
from the toppes of your pales, & that will  
let thē from coming in : for the pacted  
will hit them on the brestes, when they  
would light on the toppe of the pale, and  
so it will put them downe againe. And see  
also to other of your poultry, if they vse to  
fly or mount on walles or houses, to cutte  
their wings for feare of loosing of them,  
and to vse for their meate and drinke as  
is fore mentioned.

### ¶ Signes in a good Cocks

Cap. 3. said. wolle

¶ Stephanus Saith, the signes in a good  
Cocks are these: his body large & deepe  
withall, well and right ireden, his combe  
ragged and redde, his eyes round, & great

## The nourishing and

gray or whitish, his bill crooked with  
some red and yellow or after an azure co-  
lour, his beards or cheekes, of the colour of  
roses drawing towards a white and red,  
his necke feathers faire and long of a gol-  
den colour somewhat changing, his legges  
blacke and well stalled, great and shotte,  
his clawes shott & strong, his hinder claw  
wincled and sharpe, his taile fayre and  
straight, great and heavy. Also Columel-  
la sayth, it is not good to keepe a cocke, if  
he be not stout, hot, and knauishe, and to be  
of the same coloure as the hennies are, in  
hauing as many clawes.

But in his body to be moze hier raised,  
his combe to be hye and red as blood, and  
straight withall, his eyes blacke, or azure  
colour, his beke shott and crooked, with a  
gray crest shynning like red on white, and  
all his feathers from the head to the brest,  
to be of a changeable colour varying like  
gold or yellow, his brest large and bigge,  
his muskels on his wings bigge like ones  
armes, with long wings, his taile faire &  
long with two rankes of crooked rising  
feathers, and to be oft crowing, is a signe  
of a lusty corage, the red colour is thought  
to

## gouernment of Poultre.

to be the best Cocke, his legges short and strong, his thyes greate and thicke, and well couered with feathers, and armed well with long spurs rough and paynted, for it is not meete for fighting cocks to be without sayre spores, notwithstanding if they doe forwe sayre, straghte of body, light, syerce, eager in battayle, vigilante, readye, and often crowing, and not easily ferde: These are the signes of a good Cock, for oft times he must resist to defend his hennies, and to kill Serpentes whiche will bragge agaynst him, or other venemous beastes, and for these Cockes to haue but five hennies shal be best, for these Cockes which are so hardle to fight with other Cockes which treade their hennies, they are hote of nature and so lascitious, although they cannot treade themselves no more, yet they will not suffer other Cockes to serue their hennies, now for to take that heate of iealousie, ye shall slitte two peeces of thicke leather, and then put them on his legges, and those will hang o-uer his scete which will correct the vehement heat of his iealouny, which is in him. Thus much here for your Cock.

B. v.

The

## The nourishing and

**T**he signes and properties of a good Henne. *Cap. 4.*

**T**he signes of a good Henne are these to be of a tawnye colour, or of a rustie which are counted the cheefest colours and those hennes nerte, which hath y<sup>e</sup> pen of their winges blackishe, not all blacke but parte: as for the graye & white henns are nothing so profitable, the Henne with a tuft of feathers on her head is reasonable good, and the low feathered henne also: their heads not to be great, and their tayles oughte to bee in a meane, and her breast large, her body deepe and long, for the greatest henns of body are not the aptest henns to lay, nor yet for that purpose so naturall, or if a henne haue y<sup>e</sup> clawes as the Cocke, they are then more apte to be troden, and taketh leaste: as for those henns which hath hinder clawes, they will commonly bryake their egges in sitting thereon, and they sit not so surely as others, and will oft times eate their egges also those y<sup>e</sup> are very fat, or hath the flur of the bellye, they lay the egge then without a shell: as for your yong henns

## gouernment of Poultrie.

First they knowe not how to couer nor gouerne their yong chickens, wherefore it were better to fat the or put the, to some other purpose for your profit. As for those hennes whiche doe call or crowe lyke the cocke, or doth croke and icrape, to hely the same, ye shall pluck of the greatest fethers of her wyngs, & giue her of millet wheat to eate, and also of barley, and barley paste cut in small morsels, & crummes of bread tempered in water with some barley meale, and ye shall keepe her in a close place for a time. Ye shall also plucke the fethers of her head, thies and brest, and to eate those hennes in February is the best: & for hens berpe fatte, for they will not lay so well, wherefore ye shall put chalke into their water, and mixe also their meat therewith, & that will make them more leane: or temper their meat with the powder of bricke, and it will do the like. If any henne haue the fluxe of the belly, ye shall giue her for her first meate, the whites of egges hard beaten, and beaten with two parts of boyled peppons: and for those hennes which vse to croke, & is in a rage with heat, They will commonly hide their eggs, and eate them. Therefore

16

## The nourishing and

Therefore ye must vse to plaister an egge  
shell with plaister, or paste vppon pappe,  
anoynte it all ouer with the yelke of ano  
ther egge, and if she do breake it and find  
nothing within, so she wil at length leaue  
that vse. Or lay in y<sup>e</sup> nest a peece of chalker  
like an egge, and it will serue as well for  
that purpose, and ye shall neuer leaue but  
a nest egge in the nest after she haue layd,  
also when a yong hen do begin to clocke,  
then she would sit, if yee will not haue her  
sit, put a small pen thozow her nostrils, for  
yong hennies are moze meeter to laye then  
to sit, and the elder hennies are better for  
to sit and bring vp yong chickens then to  
laye. Some do vse when they would haue  
a hen to sit, they rub her all vnder the bel  
ly w<sup>th</sup> strong nettles, & some Farmers  
wines are so p<sup>re</sup>sise, which do wette their  
bellies in the cold water, to quench their  
heate, and some do vse to make them fast  
from meat foure daies, & shuts them vp in  
a penne. But then if ye will they shall not  
sitte, ye must within two dayes after that  
she is once coold of her heate, and haue  
fasted, then put her in the morning vnto  
the cocke to make her forget her sitting,  
and

## gouernment of Poultrie.

And so she will begin againe to lay. And if  
ye will haue a Capon to leade your chyc-  
kens, it is best for to take a great fethered  
capon, and rubbe his belly with nettels as  
ye do the henne, and if the capon be yong,  
hee will the better giue hymselfe to loue  
the chickens the sooner, and he will brood  
and gouerne them as well as the henne:  
when you take your capon for that pur-  
pose, ye must take him towarde nyght, for  
then it shalbe best, & put the chickens vn-  
to him, if he will not then couer them, net-  
tle his belly well againe with sharpe net-  
tels, and so keepe him in the coope or pen,  
the space of two or thre dayes: or so long  
vntill ye see him haue a loue vnto the chic-  
kens.

### ¶ When to set your hennes.

Cap. 5.

¶ We shall sette your hens in the increas  
of the Moone from the tenth day to the  
fifteenth is best, so that they may hatch in  
the increas of the next new Moone. The  
day in sitting that doe giue life and forme  
vnto the chickens are xxi, and of Peacocks,  
Geese,

## The nourishing and

Grese, and Duckes, & other water fowle,  
are nine dayes more. Therefore when ye  
set your egges with other, ye muste gyue  
their egges to the henne ten dayes before  
her owne egges, and then giue her foure  
egges of hers, or fyue, not aboue, and let  
them be of the fayrest and greatest egges  
ye can haue, for little egges will bring  
small chickens. Also if the henne be negle-  
gent to turne her egges, & do not sit close  
or euen on them, it were good sometymes  
(when she is gone abroad) gently to turne  
them, & there be some women that thinke  
it long whē the hen doth sit, not to let her  
abide the end of her hatching, but within  
fourteene days that she haue sit, she takes  
forth al the eggs one after another, & lokes  
them in the sunne beames, and if she can  
not see no bloody streks within, she throwes  
those egges away, and takes others. And  
likewise after the xxi. daye, if she see they  
remayne unclosed, she takes & rayles the  
henne from the neste, but the good sitting  
hen will no more returne to sit after that  
she is so rayled and touched.

19  
Ye may chose your egges in the sunne  
betwixt your hands, & put them vnder the  
henne

## gouernment of Poultie.

Then again, & those egges which ye doubt  
are not good, and will not hatche in due  
time thorow the hardnes of the shell, yee  
shall bathe them in a vessell of wood, with  
like warme water about the xxviii. daye,  
and those that doe swim aboue, caste them  
away, and put the other vnder her again,  
but ye must not constrayne the hen to rise  
from her neste: when yee do this, also ye  
maye do great good & saue some chickens  
when ye heare them begin to piepe in the  
shell, and cannot come forth by hardnesse  
thereof. Then must ye helpe the hen and  
break the toppe of the shell or picke it soft-  
ly with your finger, althoughe it be the na-  
turall office of the henne to do it: ye must  
so break it that the head of the chicke may  
come forth, so shall ye vse all those that  
haue hard shels, to helpe the henne in the  
time of hatching.

**¶ The time best to set your yong  
hens.** Cap. 4.

If ye wyl haue your yong hens & pul-  
lets to sit, it shall be best to set them in  
the second yeare of their laying: but yf  
the

## The nourishing and

the third and fourth peere : also yee maye sette many hennes at one time together, & it shall be good afore ye set your henne, to lay vnder eache neste a peece of some yron: for as they say, it is good against thunder to preserve the chickens : and also good against the breeding of the pyppe, or increasing of a monstrous nature in the egges, or to lay of bay leaues about the nests, is good against the thunder, or to put therein the heads of Garlick, or of grening weede as some say is good agaynst the pyppe : or increasing of monstrous fruite in the eggs, ye may haue of xx eggs, xxi chickens : for some egge will haue two peolkes, & those will bring two chickens.

They do vse also to set the hen in the beginning of the Moone, from the seconde daye to the fourteenth, ( as sayth Florentine ) & Columella sayth, it is good setting hens fro the tenth vnto the fifteenth, to the end the hennes may hatche and vnclose in the increase of the next new mone, for there is no more necessarye hatching daies for the hen to bring forth chickens, but xxi. and for other water fowle xxviii. daies : also when the henne is gone of her nest,

## government of Poultre.

nest, ye shall come and searche the bottom  
of hir nestes & stirre the straw a little, that  
nothing bee growen or fallen therein to  
wet and rusty the nest: some do vse to per-  
fume the nestes with Brimstone, before  
they set the egges vnder the hen, for they  
say, it will keepe the egges from ill in the  
sitting, as often it chaunceth some chicke  
will be dead in the shell. Ye shall also set  
hir with marked egges, to see when she  
hath turned them, ye must chose to set the  
most fairest and newest egges of hir owne  
if ye can possibly haue them, and they vse  
commonly to set their hennes all the some-  
mer, from the seventh of February vnto  
the xii. of September. As for other times  
it auaieth little or nothing, much like the  
first setting, because the time then is com-  
monly cold as a part of winter, & in No-  
uember, December, & January nothing  
auaieth to sit: In February they vse to  
set a hen with xv. egges, in March with  
xix. and in Aprill with xxi. for the moste  
greatest number to sette is not to be recei-  
ued aboue xxiii. egges, & from the second  
of October they vse to set no more, nor  
they ought not to set no more, if they haue

## The nourishing and

not Quens to set their Egges in, as they haue at *Malte* and at *Beauceron*, & those Chickens and Pullets are verpe euill to byng vp in Winter, and so likewise the common opinyon of them is, that from mid Iune the Chickens profite but smallie, because they do not grow nor increase in the heate of Sommer, but very little, if ye will not be to curious (as some be) in giuing your henne other egges to sitte on as well as her owne, as the Goose Egge, Pecoche, Turquie and Ducke, if ye sette these with hirs, ye shall putte them to the henne seuen or nyne dayes before hir own egges: and the common order to set eggs in number is od, as to set seuen, nyne, eleuen and thirteene, &c. whiche is to make them lye rounde in the neast, and to haue the odde egge in the middell: if ye sette ffezante egges with your Henne egges, ye neede not doubt to sette them altogether, for they aske all one time to hatche and vactose, then if ye will haue them to be ffeemales, take the roundest wyncled egges and also to haue them all males take the long rough egges, as they saye they will be males, also some doe chuse the

241

## gouernment of Poultre.

the egge with the hollow crowne in the  
side of the coppe for the Females, and also  
the crowne in the toppe vnder the shell for  
the males: agayne some doe saye to haue  
males, sette your henne on the masculpne  
day in the forenoone, as on Tewedayes  
and Thursedayes, Saturdaye and Sun-  
daye: and for the females, set your henne  
in the afternoone on the Feminine dayes  
as munday and Fryday, and some doe ob-  
serue this ceremonie in setting a henne,  
which is, not to put one Eg after another  
into the nest with her hande, but layes  
them fyrrst in a wooden platter, the gently  
puts them altogether in the nest, and yee  
must take heede that the Cocke or other  
hennes doe not sitte in his nest when she  
is risen, for the Cocke with his spores will  
breake the egges, and the other hennes  
in sitting therin, will make her forsake her  
neaste, ye shall therefore sette meate and  
water by her twice a day, that shee maye  
haue no occasion to rise & seeke her meate,  
and her egges to coole in the meane tyme,  
for if a Henne haue greate hunger, and  
tarrye long in seeking her meate, some  
hennes will hardlye retorne agayne, if

The nourishing and  
that thee bee not of a franke and a free na-  
ture,

Of Chickens newly hatched.

Cap. 7.

**T**he Chickens whiche are newlye hatched shoulde be put into a sine and perfumed a little with rosemary, whiche is good to saue the from the pippe: ye must not of two dayes giue them any meate, if one hatche before an other, but keepe them vnder a henne that hath but few, till the rest be vnclosed, and yet the henne her self will keepe them tender ynough vnder her winges without hurting, the firste and seconde daye being past, ye shall take them oute and crum them some tender breade, or otemele soaked in milke, or sodde wheat, Curdes, or barlye meale, mirtle and soaked in Wine and water, with a fewe Leeke blades hacked small and then a little boyled.

This order will saue them from the catarre, the rye, and the pippe, and from the seconde day to the sixte day, ye shall keepe them with the henne in the house. Then

at

## gouernment of Poultrie.

at the ende of fixe dayes, ye maye let them  
goe abroade with the damme, and then  
giue them of the foresayde meate, and  
if ye haue many other sitting at the same  
time, if they doe hatche, put them vnto a  
more elder Chickins, and to feede them  
with the other, or ye maye putte them to a  
Capon, and vse the... as is aforesayde, and  
then lette the yong hennes be put agayne  
to the Cocke, but giue not a henne aboue  
xxv. chickens for to feede, for they cannot  
be all well couered, also ye must see to the  
henne that keepes them, that she bee not  
hote and desirous of the cocke, for then as  
often as she couers them, she will hurte  
them and scrat them, in putting them ofte  
in a heat, nor she wil not labour nor scrape  
for their meate, nor yet take regard of the  
place, that y<sup>e</sup> yong may follow hir, where-  
fore it were better (being so hote) not to  
let her departe the courte, or to put her in  
some penne, or tye her by the legge with  
some string the space of one moneth or fixe  
weekes; vntill they bee more stronger to  
guide and helpe themselves with some o-  
ther.

Also there is a custome of those persons  
whiche

## The nourishing and

which will hatche chickens withoute the henne, which thing may be done, but it is not so sure nor so commodious, whiche is: they set the eggges an ende in an Ouen, alwayes of a temperate heate, vpon henne dongue, and they lay bagges of feathers vnder and aboue, and tourne them often. When on the eyghteenth daye they doe bathe them in luke warme water, and on the one and twentieth daye, they helpe to breake the shelles, and so take them forth, and doth nourish them as other chickens.

Agayne they may do this another way: whiche is, they marke the daye as they set them in the ouen, (as they doe another henne) and then they take so many eggges as they thinke good to set, and settes them an ende in the ouen, on bagges of sifted henne dongue, in compassing them round therewith, like a nest, and then they make a bedde of henne dongue, and layes it ouer the bagges, on the which bed they set their eggges an ende, as before is declared, and then they couer them with other henne dongue, and layes bagges thereon agayne, so that there doe no other thing touche

## gouernment of Poultrye.

touchē them, then after the fourth and fift daye they turne the Egges gently once a daye, and sets them so that one Egge doe not knock another, and at the fiftcenth daye the chickens will beginne to picke in the shels, then ye muste helpe them forth, and breake the toppes of the shelles, and sette them vnto another Henne that hath but a fewe chickens, and these chickens are in all thinges of their owne proper nature.

### How to keepe egges long.

Cap. 8.

**T**he housewife that woulde profite by keeping and selling of egges, she must (as some saye) keepe them in a warme place in Winter, as in strawe and suche lyke, well couered therein, and in the spring towardes sommer, in freshe branne, or meale according to the auncient counsell, which vnder correction I beleue the contrary, for the straw is fresh and warme and the branne or meale is hote, it followeth then that egges kepte hote, will not endure nor last good so long as those that

C.iiii.

are

## The nourishing and

are kepte coloe, as those whiche are kepte in drie salte, or to soake them in salte water it both diminish, but ye shall not doubt those egges, to take any euill taste thereby, a sweete sello is also good for to keepe them in both in winter and also in Sommer.

Againe, Columella sayth, the manner to keepe egges long tyme, is, in the winter in straw, and in sommer in bianne or meale, some doe put them fyrst five or six houres in fine beaten sault, and then they wash them and lay them in straw or bzan, and some keepes them among beanes, and others keepe them in beane meale, and some doe lette them remayne in unbeaten sault, and other some doe soke them in bryne or salte water, but like as these doe keepe them from rotting, yet thereby they will diminishe and waste, and they wil not be so full of meate as those whiche are newly layde: wherefoze the best is, if they trouble you, to sell them, because those which are put in bryne, cannot so long be kepte full, but will waste: hennys, duckes and others will laye without the Cocks, but will not be yong.

¶ Egges

## gouernment of Poultrie.

Egges to gather and keepe.

Cap. 9.

**T**hese kinde of poultrie hennes are accustomed to lay egges all the yere but specially in the spring they doe commonly begin (in cold countreys) to laye firste in Iannuarie, about the fiftieth daye, but if ye feede and nourishe them well, they will laye sooner, wherfore it shalbe good in bringing them forward to giue them barley halfe sodde, for that will make them hote, and to laye more sooner and more abundantly, and also greater Egges then others, but ye shall mixe with this Barley, of Millet Wheate sodde which will also heate, and entreate more courage in the hennes, and also to giue them of the other meate aforesayde, which oughte to be giuen to the goers abroad, and to giue to each henne 4 ounces of Barly, mixt with millet wheate: if so be you haue not fetches, giue them of the Wheate calde myl.

Ye shall see also to so many as doe laye abroad, to haue from time to time of cleane strawe in their nestes, and often chaungen

C. 9.

with

with fresh straw, for a laying henne doeth  
like that well, for it will keepe them from  
fleas and other like vermine, which often  
they bring with them when they come to  
their neastes to laye: ye shall marke also  
those hens when they lay, although moſte  
hens doe giue a warning when they haue  
layde, in cackling, and yet ſome Hennes  
wil hold their peace when they haue laid,  
and ſome hennes wil (whē they haue laid)  
but clock, wherefoze ye muſt looke and vi-  
ſite their Neaſtes when they haue layde,  
and then gather their egges together,  
and all thoſe hennes that haue layde that  
daye, for thoſe egges are beſt to bee putte  
vnder a henne that clocks, as for the other  
egges ye may ſell: the cheefeſt egges to  
hatche are thoſe whiche are neweſt layde,  
and yet ye may ſette other eggs alſo which  
are older layde, ſo they be not aboue tenne  
dayes olde.

**Egges to haue all Winter.**

Capitolo

**H**ennes commonly begins to laye be-  
ginninge in februarye and marche, & then  
pong

## gouernment of Poultre.

young hennes lay a yere and halfe wel, and  
at the two yeres ende they are then better  
then at the first, and then must ye see that  
they be well fedde, as sometime with good  
Ores mixte with Fenicreeke, to make  
them more hotter, and if ye will then haue  
them to laye greate egges, your Hennes  
must not be to fatte, for commonly pullets  
and fatte hennes will laye small Egges,  
pullets because they are but young, and  
olde hennes because they are so fat, there-  
fore ye must mixe their meate with chalke  
& put of beaten brycke into their troughes  
with some wine and water mixte, and let  
them haue it daylye for a space, or ge-  
ue them of Barlye halfe sodde and mixt  
with tares, or the grayne calde millat  
Wheat. Hennes doe commonlye cease  
laying about the third of Nouember, when  
the colde begynneth to come, and then feede  
ding on blackbriers, elder, & other fruite,  
but for being troubled, ye might choose of  
the fairest hennes for to lay egges all the  
Winter, as well as at other times, which  
order is, ye must nourish them with tosted  
bread, and then soked ale or small Wine,  
mixte with some water: Some doe take  
of

## The nourishing and

of Water and milke, and soke the tostes  
therein, from the euening to the morning  
and so giues it them on the morrowe to  
their breakfast, and at night they giue  
them some otes, or barlye, and for þe tyme  
ye must not let them be troden of the cock,  
and after the firste laying also, lette them  
be kepte from the Cocke, and so they will  
long continue good, and when your hens  
are past thye peres it shall be best to sell  
or to eate them, for after those peres they  
will hardly lay but waxe barren, therefore  
it shall be good to change them for yonger  
hennes if ye can: & againe, some do marke  
the places of those hennes which are giue  
to lay mute, or make no noyse, those hens  
must not bee lette go abroad to seeke their  
neastes (for else ye shall haue small profite  
of them) but only to bath them in the sun,  
when the day is faire, and the to see them  
had in againe. If a henne be troden of a  
crow, as some be, she either dieth, or  
waxeeth barren, or prospereth not af-  
ter.

¶ Chickens

## gouernment of Poultrie.

### ¶ Chickens of a later broode.

Cap. 11.

**T**hose Chickens that come of a later brood, some good huswiues doth hold oppinion, that they will be better layers, then those þ̄ come in the spring, the other saith they are best for that purpose, if they may bee nourished and well fed in the first wynter, but yet by your leave, they wil be more tender in cold times, then the other that are bred in the spring: because they are all winter brought vpp in the house, wherefore they are calde house chickens: but those hennies that brings vppe their chickens abroad, and neuer comes in the house all sommer, are the best, and they will bee muche faster and harder to lyue then the other brought vp in the house: & also more profitable if she can keepe them from spoiling till they be great.

### How to feed Chickens from the damme.

Cap. 12.

**T**o feed & nourish Chickens from the damme, ye must vse to giue them meat  
thys

## The nourishing and 03

thrise a day, in the morning, noone, and at night, and also to giue fresh water, and alwaies sette by their meate, so shall yee alwaies keepe them fayre and from the pippe: for when they haue eaten any meat they will desire to drinke thereunto, and if they haue not alwayes fre she water by them, they will seeke & drinke of the next puddle and foule water they find, and that will soone breed in them the pippe, by the which it causeth a mortall poyson in them, and it will make them droope, and hang their wings, & at length dye thereof. And yee must cleanse out all the tares and dardnell, from the barley and other meate ye giue them, and so feed them with the foresaide meate till they were moze stronger: ye must also perfume them with pennicall, and rosemary, and to perfume your other poultrie, ye shall take Ilope, Linseed or flaxe, and burne it, and hold the heads of your poultrie with their mouths open, ouer the said fume, & this will preserue them also from the pippe.

## gouernment of Poultrie.

The pippe, and the cause, to  
helpe also. *Cap. 13.*

**A**L Poultrie are subiect to the pyype  
on the tongue, which will grow on  
the end thereof like a thin scale, and it  
will let them to feed. One occasion there  
is when they lacke drinke, or else when  
they haue dronke troubled or filthy water,  
or haue eaten of filthy and stinking meate  
out of the chanell, donghill, or other dur-  
tye place, whereas lyes the garbage of  
some filthy fleshe, or such like, or any e-  
uyl fauoure will breed the pippe. There-  
fore if ye fume your poultrie sometimes  
with Sautne, Bayes, Rosemarie, or  
Gynneper, it will saue them from the  
pippe.

Also they saye the pippe will be a hard  
scale on the tip of their tongues & to helpe  
the same, (some takes it of with his naile)  
and some do steepe a clove of Garlick in  
oile olīue, wherwith they chafe & rub his  
bill, & they do make the to eate of stauel-  
aker among their meat, also Dioscorides  
sayth, the beries & leaues of Rynet to bee  
giuen

## The nourishing and

giuen them, will preserue both Cocks  
and capons from the pippe: againe, some  
doe vse to giue them Garlike cut in pee-  
ces with butter, and giuen them when the  
pippe is take of, & then with your mouth  
to spurt a little Ale, Wine, or Beare into  
their mouthes: Againe, other some doe  
raise the pippe softly with their nayle, or  
the point of a Knife, & so takes it off gent-  
ly, and wash it then with ale or beare, and  
so let him go, or to rubbe it with salte and  
Vingere, or laye thereto of beaten Gar-  
lic whiche is counted good agaynst the  
pippe: agayne others doe keepe the pippe  
whē it is taken off, & giues it him to drink  
with ale or beare, and they saye it will  
helpe, wherof they haue a prouerbe which  
sayth, if he eate not the pippe, the pip will  
eate him: and also to saue them from the  
pippe, some doe put into their throates the  
blades of Garlick stieped in warme oyle,  
and doe sprinkle their billes with mens  
vrine warme, and then holdes them close  
together along time after, so that by the  
bitternesse of the vrine, makes the to caste  
the pippe, and fleame at their nose. Wilde  
grapes mixte with other meate, is good

## gouernment of Poultrie?

for them or beaten and stampte and so gi-  
uen to drinke with water. These are good  
remedies for poultrie that are seldome  
sicke, if fleame haue already take their  
eyes, they will not then eate, then must ye  
slit their iawes to cause y<sup>e</sup> matter to come  
forth that is gathered vnder their eyes,  
then rubbe it with a little beaten salt and  
partellie, this greese breeds commonlye  
when they abyde much colde, weate and  
hunger, or in sommer when they drinke of  
a standing puddle, or foule water, as is be-  
fore sayde: agayne, Chickens when they  
ware olde, are subiect to haue the Rie in  
their heade and eyes, catarres, runnes, and  
distillations, at their nostrils: thowome the  
colde and nummesse of their feete, and to  
drinke the water of yse, or frozen water,  
or too much colde taken thowome the faulte  
of the henhouse, being to open in the night  
or sitting abroad on Trees, or vnder the  
eaves of houses when it raynes, and suche  
extreame colde, causes them to be more  
founded in their feete, which in some poul-  
trie breeds the goutte, specially in tender  
byrdes, as yong Turquies and suche, and  
also the goutte may come by the drinking

D.

of

The nourishing and  
of ice water, all these doe breed the like  
diseases aforesaide, whereby many dyes  
thereof.

¶ To helpe the Catarre or reume in  
poultre. *Cap. 14.*

They teache to put a penne crosse thro-  
row their nostrils, and then they doe  
bathe them with luke warme water, and  
some tyme they do warme their feete, spe-  
cially of such as are yet yong and tender:  
and some doe vse to lappe them in woollen  
clothes, wool, and in feathers, & so keepes  
them in a vessel by the fyre side, or in some  
warme ouen, or such like place, then if the  
Catarre doe still continue on the eyes and  
towards the beake, ye must then gentlye  
cut it, and launce the impostume, and put  
that matter forth that is conieiled ther-  
in and so put thereon a little  
beaten salt.

(.)

¶ How

How many hens to a Cock.

(Ap. 15,

Colamella sayth xii. hennes shall bee sufficient for one good cock which will cause them the rather to be of one colour, and yet sayth he, our aunccestors did vse to giue but fīue hennes to one cocke, whiche caused thē rather to be of diuers coloures some white, some gray, some reddish, and some taupe, some blacke, and some of a speckled colour, whiche are not thought to be so good as the red & gray speckled: and to haue hens all of one colour is best, and the hennes all of one colour (saue the white) are counted the best laiers. Again, Stephanus saith that twelue hens to one good Cock is sufficient, and yet (sayth he) our auncetours did giue but fīue Hens to a Cocke, whiche being so fewe (as some iudge) it did cause thē to be neyther white nor gray, but part reddish taupe, and blacke, which are (among the rest) not counted the beste Hennes to lay or breede.

(.)

D.ii.

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OF Hennes that hatch es abroad,  
as in bushes. *Cap. 16.*

**H**ennes that sit abroad oz other poul-  
trye, pee shall take hir and blindfold  
hir softly in the euening, & take vp all hir  
eggs, with so much of the nest as ye can, &  
then set her where ye shall seeme good, &  
lay therein hir eggs as they were before,  
and then set the henne softly thereon, and  
decke the nest with greene boughes like  
the place she came from, and so shut hyr  
in all that night, on the next daye giue  
hyr meate and water: but let hir not forth  
the space of thre dayes, but giue her  
meate and water in the place, & so she will  
sone forget the other place. Thus ye may  
haue hir & hir chickens in more safety then  
to let hir sit abroad: ye must not rashly set  
all sort of hens, but first learne & knowe  
their natures, for some will sit wel, & some  
forget hir chickens: others will bring vp &  
nourish chickens better then sit, & some in  
sitting will breake their eggs as aforesaide  
which are better to sel thē sit: also as soone  
as a henne haue ended her fyrste laye, shee  
will

## gouernment of Poultrie.

will then couet to sitte, wherein you must haue reason, and see that ye sette her with no more eggs then she maye well couer, the number of egges that ye ought to sette a henne, may not be aboue twentie & thre, and they ought to be all of one sorte, as of one henne, and yet not alwayes of one hens laying, for ye must giue the according to the time in Januarie they giue vnto a hen x. egges, in March xix. and in Aprill xxi. and so all the sommer vnto the fyrste daie of October xxi. and after that time no more, for if ye bzeede Chickins in the cold winter they are like to dye.

## ¶ Cause of Fluxe in poultrie.

*Cap. 17.*

**A**Lso the flux of the bellie in Poultry which thing doth make them weake it commeth oft times to poultry by eating of moyste meate, or else they haue eaten of some laxatiue hearbes, or if their hen-house haue bene left open all night, or taken some colde sitting vpon trees abroad, or in open places a nights, or else by eating of some fruite, these and such like wil cause them to haue the fluxe, whiche doth

The nourishing and  
much weaken them, whereby they will  
not lay so soone nor desire the Cock.

¶ Remedies against the fluxe.

Cap. 18,

**T**he Remedies are these, ye shall take  
and make powder of the huskes of A-  
cornes, then mixe it with barley meale, &  
with redde wine, so make a paste thereof  
and giue it them, or cast it vnto them cut  
in smale pieces, or giue vnto them the  
whites of egges hard rosted, & then beate  
with two partes of the curnels of great  
reylons beate to fine powder, and so made  
in paste as the other and cast vnto them.  
Another, they make paste of beaten barley,  
with chalk, & mixt with the water where-  
in Youngarnets or Quinces haue bene  
sod in, and so do ye giue it vnto them.

¶ Against stopping of the belly  
in Poultrie. Cap. 19.

**I**f your Poultrie be stopt in the vent &  
closed vp, specially oft times in young  
chickens. They do take and open the vent  
with a strawe or such like, and then clippe  
awaye all the fethers about the vent or  
tuell

## gouernment of Poultrie.

tuell, and also on the insides of both their  
thies, to the end their dung thereby bee  
not holden or kept long, which oft times  
is the cause of the stopping of the tuell, or  
vent, and for the stopping of the greater  
poultrie, they vse to put a quantitie of ho-  
ny among their water, & also their meate,  
and that will helpe them againe.

### ¶ Against lice and vermine in Poultrie. Cap. 20.

**W**hercas lyce, fleas, hoggelice, sowe  
wormes & suche like, do trouble and  
hurt poultry, so that they cannot quietly  
feede nor rest a nights, whereby they will  
were poore, whiche increaseth when they  
cannot bathe in dust, Sand, or ashes, they  
get them also in scraping abroad among  
foule strawe, or on dunghils, or gotten  
when they sit in nests not made cleane, or  
in the henhouse by their dung lying long  
there, which corruptes their bodies, and  
breydes lice and fleas, the remedy, ye shall  
take y powder of pepper mixt with warme  
water, and therewith bathe them, or take  
fine powder of stauesaker, and mixe it with  
lye.

## The nourishing and

lyce, and so washe them therewith, or to bathe them in sope water, whiche is good to kill lyce, or the fine powder of pyruet, mixte with viniger, and so washe them therewith, againe some doe washe them with Wyne wherein Commen is sodde, and Stauesaker, or with the Water that wilde fetches or tares hath bene sodde in, all these are good to kill lice and Fleas in poultrie.

### Of Vermine that bytes and stinges poultrie. Cap. 21.

YE muste also from tyme to tyme looke vnto your poultrie for stinging or byting with venemous woꝝms, by haunting their houses, and breeding in the dongue or olde walles, as spyders, Estes, snakes, shroue mice which is venemous of nature and house mice or fielde mice, whiche will trouble poultrie, or Codes which will couet to sit on warme egges: also agaynst byting, ye shal annoint the venomed place with oyle of Scorpyon, or put thereon of Methridate, also giue them a little Triacle with ale or beere, mozeouer agaynst Ver-

## gouernment of Poultre.

Termine that deuoures poultre and eggs in the henhouse in the night, the auntyents did counsell to strew and set poses of rew in the open holes of doze, and likewise they counsell to cast of Byrne all about on the walles and sides of the henhouse, the dozes and windows, and to embroy or annoynt the walles, and the dozes and windowes of the henhouse, with the gall of a Cat, dog, or Foxe.

**¶** Of sitting hennes that rise in weat and raynie dayes.

*Cap. 22.*

**W**hen as your hennes do sit, after they haue late a day or two, yea three days or more somtimes, not rising to eate, then hungar will constrayne them to rise, and when they go abroade to seeke their meat and water, if the day be then weat, ye shal not suffer the to go abroade and weat their feete, for when as they returne vnto their neaste, and touch their warme egges with their weat feete, the egges thereby maye soone chill, and thereby come to small prooffe, therefore in weat tymes and raynie

## The nourishing and

rie dayes let not your hennes that sit goe  
abrode to seeke their meate, but set meate  
and water by them, so long as it is weate  
abrode: so shal their egges come to good,  
otherwise they shal be in daunger of chil-  
ling by hir weat feete, and therby come to  
naught, as those egges whiche doe chill,  
whercas the henne in seeking meate a-  
broade, is long absent from her neaste, in  
meane tyme they coole, and for those hens  
that will breake their eggs and eate them,  
ye shall make a neast egge, and playster  
him all ouer with whytes of Egges bea-  
ten with plaister and chalke, and layde  
thereon and dride in the ayre, and when it  
is harde it will be like the shell of an Eg,  
and make that the neast egge, ye maye  
make neaste Egges of plaister and  
chalke, and vse them as  
is before decla-

red.

¶ What

## gouernment of Poultrie.

¶ What time to carue yong Cock chickens. *Cap. 23.*

**T**O cut yong Cockrels to make them Capons, the time thereof is best to cut or carue them soone after their dam haue left them, or whē they cry or pule no more after her, as when they begin to crow and ware hote to treade the pullets.

The gelding or caruing of them is, to take away in thē the hote desire they haue to treade the pullets, and to make them chaste, wherein there is two manner of wayes, which is not onelye to loose their stones, but also when their spozes is seard with a hote yron and so consumed. Then after if any spur doe swell or rancle, yee shal couer it with potters earth or clay til it be hole. This way is more difficult, and yet vsed among the Greekes at Delose.

The common waye of cutting or caruing is not to be disprayed, and is moste knowne as this waye: they take them in the morning commonly (the signe being good, and on the wane of the Moone) and layes the cock in hir lappe vpon his back,  
in

## The nourishing and

in trussing vp his legges by his sides, the  
the caruer pluckes firste awaye the Fea-  
thers aboue the vent, and takes vp the vpper  
skinne with the poynnt of the Needle,  
and slits it ouertwart an inche long, and  
then takes vp the vnder thin skinne, nerte  
the guts and slits that likewise, then the  
Caruer annoyntes her forefinger of her  
righte hande, with Oyle or butter, & puts  
it gently to the raines of the cocke on the  
lefte side, and with her finger brings forth  
the stone. Then she annoyntes the forefin-  
ger of her left hande, and puts it vnto the  
stone on the right side of the Cocke, and  
with her finger brings it forth, so done,  
she placeth the guts and sowes the skinne  
vp agayne with a threede, and then an-  
noyntes that place with some freshe but-  
ter, and lets him go, but if the day then be  
colde or weate, keepe them in the house  
warne for a day or two after their Car-  
uing, but if it be sayre, let them go abroad  
and when they are a yeare and a halfe old,  
there is no more disposition or rankenesse  
in them, then ye may choose and take the  
moste fairest and greatest Capon to go-  
uerne and leade your Chickins, although  
there

## gouernment of Poultrie.

there is not so great stoutnesse in him, as in a cock.


¶ Against the inflaming of the eyes  
and the hawe. Cap. 24.

**A**gainst the inflaming of the eyes in  
poultrie, ye shall boyle in water so-  
thernewood, and wheaten bread, and ther-  
with bath their eyes, also ye maye bathe  
them with the distilled Water of pource-  
layne and Moomans milke, or with the  
iuiue of Pourceleine mixte with a little  
hony, or the iuiue of Sheapheardes purce  
mixte with Moomans milke. And agaynst  
the hawe in the eye, ye must rubbe the eye  
with bole Armoniac, Compu and honey,  
beaten all well together, as much of the  
one as the other, and so lay it too, or if pee  
haue the practise to lift it vp warilye and  
lightly with the poynt of a needle, and so  
take it away, also the iuiue of ground iute  
with the Berries or leaues stampte with  
water or wine is better, and plaister wise  
lay it too, and remoue it once in 24. hours  
and it will helpe.

¶ Cram-

## The nourishing and

### ¶ Cramming and fattening of Capons, Cap. 25.

**W**hen as ye take vpppe your Capons to make them fatte, ye muste prepare of wheaten meale, or barlpe meale mixte with two partes of bzanne. Then ye shall beate ale or beare, but ale is the better, or luke warme Clozte, and therewith temper your meale and bzanne. Some do put therevnto fresh hogs greace, or of sheepe, or oyle Olive, and when it is all tempered together, they take a small peece, and make and roll it betwixt their handes, of two inches long or more, and smal at both the endes, like this figure , then they dippe it in milke, ale, or oyle, and giue a Capon so many thereof as ye shall thinke good, to a great Capon xx. roles, & to the other as ye shall see cause: thus ye muste feede them twice a daye at morning and evening, and so yee shall make them fatte in a moneth or lesse, but alwayes ye muste see that their meate is digested before yee giue them any more, for some be of a slow digestion, and if ye giue meate vpon meat they

## gouernment of Poultrie.

they will loath it : Againe, they doe fatte Capons in some countreis, as in *Mauce*, and in *Britaine* (as they saye) when they woulde fatte them, they siele vppē their eyes, as they doe other byrdes, and so giues them meate to eate, as Corne halfe sodde, and then made in paste, and so into pellets like y<sup>e</sup> other, or made in small morsels, and feedes them therewith, and so they are made sault in sixe or ten dayes at the most, but ye must keepe thē from Uermine, and filing themselves with their owne dongue.

¶ Meate for hennes and other poultrie, and where and when to feede them. *Cap. 26.*

**T**he best meate and feeding for your hennes is brused Barlye, or Fatches, or brused pease, likewise of wheate calde Millet, or the wheate panicke, these are the cheefest for them to eate, for these doe both heate and drie them, wherefore they vse to sifte out the coursest of the wheate, and mixe it with the other, and to giue them all wheate it were to cosselye, in man-  
ny

ny places , ye maye therfore giue them the seedes of cockle , with bryanne and o- ther meale not much sifted, but if there be not some meale with it mixte , it will not then giue them so good an appetite.

And for those hens that are leane, they doe giue them the leaues and seedes of Pellilot hearbe, for that is very good to make the haue an appetite to their meate, and whereas ye cannot haue that, then ye may giue the the pomes of straine grapes (if they laye not) or raisons stampte with Barlye meale , for that will make them more giuen to lay, or if ye giue them the seedes of Rape, it will cause them also to laye, but after Autumne they lay then sil- dome, because they straye abroad and eat berries and cold fruite not ripe , whiche makes them not disposed to laye : then must ye giue them store of meate twice a day in your court, morning and euening, to cause them to carry that strays abroad then lette them not go farre from the hen- house at night, not to carrye long a mor- ninges for their meate , for straying a- broad, and haue no care of that place , and euery night for to tell them if ye haue all


## gouernment of Poultrie.

of not, for soone ye may be deceiued, also  
ye must layc Sande of Asbes along the  
wall sides for them to bathe in, for there  
by they cleanse their feathers from vermin  
and filth: if ye will beleue Heracles and  
Epheſus which sayeth, that Dogges doe  
cleaſe them in the myre and durte, & poul-  
trie doe cleaſe them in ſande, asbes, and  
duſt.

To ſatte hennies beſts  
Cap. 27.

**B**ecaule it is the comyn office of the  
Countreyman or wyman to ſat hennies,  
and poultrie, ſo likewiſe it is for y<sup>e</sup> crafti-  
man to buy keepe and ſell them, and be-  
caule it ſhall not be ſumme etc for both ſorts  
to feede them, ye ſhall diſcreetly and ye muſt  
doe this: ye muſt prepare a watring place  
and make a ſump, and put each hennie by her ſelfe  
in a pennes prynces ſo narrow that ſhe can  
not almoſt turne her chere, and thoſe  
pennes muſt haue on booth ſides two hylles  
the one to put forth her head, and the other  
her taile and rumpe, and ſo to geue her  
meate when ſhe hath digeſted that in her

## The nourishing and

crabw, and to clesse her penne ofte, that  
her dongue doe not hinder her fattting, ye  
must also put cleane strawe vnder her, or  
softe haye of the later season, for if they  
stande harde in the penne, they will scant-  
ly fatte, yee must place all the feathers on  
her heade and vnder her winges, and on  
hir thies, those of her head and wings be-  
cause there shall come no Lice to trouble  
her, the other feathers on her thighes, be-  
cause the dongue shal not annoy and cum-  
ber her cuell, her meate shall bee Barlye  
meale made in past with water, and fashi-  
oned in pellets long wayes, after this fi-  
gure  or as it is afoze declared,  
for the feeding or cramming the Capon,  
and so to make hir to swallow them, the  
first daye it shall bee beste to giue hir but  
little meate, vntill she be accustomed to di-  
gest it, for about all yee must see that shee  
digest her meate well, and giue her no  
more so long as she hath any meate in her  
croppe, and when she is filde, let her go a  
little without the penne, so that she go not  
farre, then if any thing picke or bite her  
she will complaine, and so yee maye helpe  
her, and thus yee may see the generall rule

hbm

## gouernment of Poultre.

how to fatter hennes; and if ye will haue  
them fatte and tender withall, ye muste  
kneade your barly meale with water and  
hony, and that will fatter them, and make  
them tender meate: some doe put into 3.  
parts of water, one part of wyne, or strong  
Ale, and stiepes wheaten breade therein,  
and that will also fat the well, if ye begin  
to fatter them in the newe of the Moone, as  
it is counted best, ye shall haue her fatte a-  
bout the twenticth daye after; also in the  
meane time if she doe refuse her meate, ye  
must then diminish the or giue her lesse, so  
many dayes as ye haue fedde her, the full  
time that ye shoulde fatter her, is but xxiij.  
dayes, thus much for their meate, and fat-  
ting of hens.

## The feeding of bigge Chickens.

Cap. xx.

The feeding or fattering of bigge Chick-  
ens in the Coope or penne: They doe  
commonlye giue them wheaten breade in  
Ale, sometimes of rye beere; and they  
drinke milke and water, or of soaked bran  
in milke, and sometimes ye maye giue them

C.ii.

barly.

## The nourishing and

barly, and to feede them one after another,  
 if there be any thing in their crops, for if  
 that which they haue eaten is not gone or  
 consumed, nor their crop yet emptye, that  
 signifieth undigested and like not y<sup>e</sup> meat,  
 then giue them no more till they haue di-  
 gested that, and for yonger Chickens that  
 go y<sup>e</sup>t with the damme, ye must not lette  
 them go farre abroad, till they be strong,  
 but lette them remayne with the henne in  
 the house or pen, and giue them steemeale  
 or Barly meale, till they be more stronger  
 and keepe them as much as ye may from  
 venemous wormes, as Adders, Snakes,  
 Toades, and such, for if they breathe and  
 blow on them, it is a payson come to them  
 as euill as the pestilence which killeth  
 them, agaynst such venemous wormes the  
 remedie is: ye shall burne in that place  
 the horne of a Stagge in powder, or of  
 Gallamum or Romans beare, or hogges  
 Dog, or Cats beare, for the smoke therof  
 will cause the Snake or Adder to flie, and  
 scrype, ye must see to haue them in tempe-  
 rate places, not to hot nor to colde, for  
 they may not (being yong) endure muche  
 heate or much colde, wherefore it were  
 good

## gouernment of Poulnie.

good to keepe them temperate in the post  
with the dam fortye dayes, till they bee  
moze able to go abrode, ye must also clip  
the downe betweene their theyes, and vn-  
der their rumpe, that their dongue ware  
not harde, and stop the naturall Conduite,  
therfore ye must see ofte vnto them that  
their ventres may haue issue.

To feede or cramme yong pul-  
lets. *Capitulum.*

**F**or the feeding and crammynge of yong  
pullets a verie good way is this, to  
make them fat and tender to eate, ye shall  
keepe them in a darke place as aforesayde  
or blindfold to them: then take ground bat-  
te small, and sicce out all the branne ther-  
of, then they doe vse to mouen the sayde  
barlte meale with warme milke, & some  
takes ale, and some beere, and so they  
crame and feede them as aforesaid, mor-  
ning and eueing, in giuing to them so  
much as they maye well digest  
and to helpe their digestion: some doe  
mixe with their meate of Mustarde seede,  
or annise seede: thus ye maye fatte them in

## The nourishing and

short space.

Ordering and letting forth

Poultre amornings.

Cap. 30.

**Y****O**u that haue henhouses, your hennes  
and poultre ought to be lette forth a  
mornings with rising of the sunne, or  
within halfe an houre after, and to rooste  
at night halfe an hower before sunne set,  
this hath bene the comon vse among far-  
mers houses in most countreyes, and in  
Autumne some will not let them forth of  
the henhouse a dayes for a certaine time,  
but giues them meate and water there  
thre a day, or oftener then others, for  
they giue vnto each henne eight ounces of  
grayne a day, and those that goes abroad  
but foure or sixe ounces a daye, and those  
that be kept in pennes to feede, to vse the  
as is before declared, and they oughte to  
haue on the Sunne side, a long windowe  
made with lath, that the sunne maye shine  
on them, which will make them to picke  
and cleanse their feathers, and thereby wil  
like the better, and those that shall looke

unto

## gouernment of Poultrie.

unto them must be painefull, cleenlye and trustie, otherwise there is small profite or gaynes to be had by the breeding of them but trauell and daily charge, therefore ye must looke well vnto them alwayes, speciallye, when they are yong and tender, for else there is no gains but losse, and time spent in vayne.

**T**he order in caruing Poultrie of some here in Englande.

*Cap. 31.*

**S**ome do vse to carue or cut yong cockrels when they bee nye a quarter olde or moze, as being hatched in marche, they carue them in August following, or when they doe growe in a heate, and wax proud and crowe often, or doe offer to treade the yong pullets, and rooste before the hens, then it shall be best to carue them, and suffer them not to go to long (for as some do say) if they tread before they are cut, their fleshe will not be so tender, and the older they ware the moze danger it shall bee to cutte them, wherefore to carue them betimes shalbe alwayes best.

*E.iiii.*

*The*

## The Dourishing and

The order of caruing here in England of some is thus: they take them vp in the morning, then the caruer sits downe on a low stoole, and another person holdes the body of the Cockrel in her lappe, bowing his feete close by his sides, & holding them downe with his handes fast on his belly, and laying him on his back, and turning his tayle towardes the Caruer. Then the Caruer shall pluck away with her righte hand all the feathers and downe cleane from his pannell, the breadth of a shilling or moze to make the skinne bare, then the Caruer takes a steele needle, and prickes thorow a part of the vpper skinne, and so takes it vp and cuttes it ouerthwarte his pannell, an inche and a halfe, and next his guts ye shal haue another thin skinne and take vp a part of that warily for pricking his guts, noz let him strue as little as ye may, for if he do, he is in moze daunger to prosper after, then the Caruer with the forefinger of the right hande shall spit or annoynt it with oyle, and with her finger lifte vp softly his guts, in putting softely downe her forefinger vnto his rapnes (on his lefte side) of his rompe, & there plucks awaye.

## gouernment of Roublic.

awaye his stone with her forefinger to the  
cut plate, and so take it out with her fore-  
finger and thombe, then the Caruer spits  
or annoyntes the forefinger of her lefte  
hand, and then puts it softly downe to the  
raynes on the right side of the Cocks, and  
there takes vp the other Stone with her  
forefinger, as in the other side, if there be  
any, for some will haue but one stone, then  
put in his guttes and place them agayne,  
thē with a needle and threed sew by close  
the skinne againe, that no winde enter in-  
to the wound, and beware in stitching his  
guts with the skinne, then annoynte it al  
ouer with fresh greace, and so let him or  
them go, but then if the time or daye bee  
colde, weat, or windie, the best is to keepe  
them in the house a day or two after,

and giue them meate and wa-  
ter, and they will bee  
nothing the  
worse.

**Other**

## The nourishing and

Other thinges necessarye to knowe  
for the keeping of Poultrie

Cap. 32.

**T**hose that will gayne and followe my  
counsell they must firste consider howe  
many hennes they may keepe, and then be  
ginne to nourishe them accordingly, fyrste  
to know what time one oughte to gather  
eggs to vse and keepe: then after to hatche  
and howe they shoulde be sette to the hen  
well, some in setting eggges within xiiii.  
houres, will take eche egge, and looke on  
them agaynst a Candle or sunne, if there  
appeare red strekes in the eggges, those she  
settes, and those which hath none, takes  
them awaye and eates them, & when your  
henne hath hatcht, looke to the nourishing  
of your Chickens well, till they be able to  
do some pleasure: in doing this, they shal  
gaine in gouerning well all your poultry  
about your house, y number that hee must  
haue, he must consider off: Manye Far-  
mers may well haue two hundred head of  
poultrie: to nourishe and gouerne this nu-  
ber well, it shall be ynough for one person  
to

## gouernment of Poultrie.

to feede and save them from daungers, also take heede of being a white henne, for she is counted no good layer, & she is seene farre of, whereby shee is in moze daunger then others: and the blacke henne is no good layer, noꝝ good to keepe, for she is in daunger to be trodden of the fleshe Crow, and then shee will neuer prosper after: therefore keepe suche hennes as are of a good colour breeders and layers, as the gray, the broune, and red feathered, & such and their bodies to be big and large, then they will lay the greater egges, their breast full and square with a great head, her creastes redde and straighce, and hir clawes to be indifferent greate, which is a good sign in them, and those which haue five clawes so they haue no spores growing on the insides of their legges for those with spores, is a signe of males oꝝ male kynde, and they will seldome laye noꝝ abide the treading of the cocke, and when they sit they will breake their egges with their spurs, therefore chuse to keepe those that are best to nourish and laye, and sell the rest. Chickens after their hatching will lay within seven moneths after, as  
bring

## The Flourishing and

being hatchte at Lammias, will laye at Marche nexte after, and in Autumne: because they cease laying by eating of fruit abroad, some doe thinke it good then to keepe a lesse number, and sell all aboute 3. yerres olde, and those that seldome laye, & not good to breede, or marre their eggs in sitting, and those that crow like the cocke, or tread on other hennes, these sortes of poultrie are not profitable, nor yet good to keepe, nor those Chickens which are of a later broode, as hatchte after the fifteenth day of September, for the time then will waxe colde, and they will smallye growe and encrease of bodie, but to keepe your Cocke chickens till they tread the hennes it shall be best, and then to chuse the fayrest, the reason is: for ye shall hardly find a good cock, til ye haue seene their prooffe, then to chuse and take those ye lyke among other, the red cocke is counted one of the best, and when your hennes doe cease laying by eating fruit in Autumne, some do keepe so many hennes in the house, as bee layers all the tyme of Autumne, and there giues them meate and water for a season, and thereby they haue had plenty of eggs,

## gouernment of Poultrie.

so that you kepe their house cleane, and  
for them that goeth abroad in Autumne,  
to geue them Corne it is but lost, but let  
them stie for themselves for that time,  
and those ye kepe in the house, make their  
perches and nestes, so that one sitte not  
ouer another, for siling those vnder, nor  
their perches set nigh together, for by  
ring or fighting one with another of them  
whiche will cause them to haue lesse  
loue to the house, and when yee haue  
boughte straunge poultrie and yong, put  
them first in your henne house at night,  
straunge afoze with some meate, which will  
make them after to loue the house, and so  
ble them with meate two or thre eue-  
ninges after, till they be acquainted with  
the henhouse. Thus muche necessarye to  
knowe of the nature and gouernement of  
poultrie. Also, if ye set Geese together in  
pennes, if one hatch before an other, those  
that lye will rise from their eggs, and  
let them coole, and go with the other that  
hatchen, therefore let not one Goose see an  
other hatch before her own be come forth:  
Barlye halfe sowne and fedde, will make  
hemme or dycke to laye greete Eggs, if  
ye

## The nourishing and

ye mixe it with the seede of Citisus so called in frenche.

¶ The nature and gouernmente of  
Goose. Cap. 33.

**G**oese among other foule are most profitable for husbandmen and also for others, because their bodyes is a common meate, they doe pleasure to the Gentleman and yeoman, and the greace profitable other wayes, and among other water fowle those which the Greekes doe call *Amphibia* fowles of two kinde of liues, because they feede as muche on the water, as on y<sup>e</sup> lande. Among all other the Goose is most profitable for the bufer, and also the seller and to the husbandman, because they neede not haue to great a charge and care for their meate as other must haue, for they do keepe as good a watche alwaye as the Crane or Dogge, all water Fowle muste haue water, wherefore the Goose cannot lue or be kepte long withoute water and Grasse, it shall not be good to keepe them where there is low brousing heathes, for they will crosse, kneble, and eate so farre  
and

## gouernment of Poultrie.

and so hye as they may reache, but if yee  
haue any boyde grounde or place by some  
poude or lake where they may haue gresse  
or corne to feede them, there it shalbe best  
for thē to be, I am of this opinyon, not by  
any great pzoofe, but because I see they  
are kepte with small payne and trauell,  
wherefore we may with smal charge haue  
both the Geese and their feathers, whiche  
feathers in some places they take not as  
ye take Corne in the fielde once a yere,  
but fethers sou takes twice a yere, which  
is, they clippe in Aprill, and pluck in Au-  
gust, for then they will come off lighelye,  
Geese where as they come they will stain  
the ground, and for that cause if the coun-  
trei or place will not beare them, they  
ought to haue but certayne, as euery hus-  
band man to haue one Gander, and three  
geese, because they are a poison to grounds  
but to keepe in your seuerall Courte or  
houses and pearces ye may haue so  
many as ye shall see me

good.

For

Of places and houses for ordering of Geese.

Cap. 34.

**C**olumella sayth, those whiche hath a desire to haue a number of Geese, or other water foule, they ought to make places and houses for them to breede or fatte, and to bee bled after this sorte it would doe well, which is: ye must haue a large court close paloe or walde of nyne foote hie, that no Uermine may enter into them, and all about within the same, to make allies and galleries with partitions, and such chambers for one alone to sleepe in, and ouer the same to set your house for them made strong with Stone or Bricke 4. foote square, platte about your court, and to esche house a close doore for them to come in and out to lay, and also to shutt them in when yee shall haue cause, then if there be not a pond or riuer nye vnto the, and to the house, yee must then make one else to seeke their water farre off, whiche is not good, for Geese that sitte must haue water to bathe them, when they rise from their

## gouernment of Poultrie.

their neast, or else (as some say) their eggs will not prosper, if there be no water, you must make a ponde, and clay it in the bot-  
tome, for the water to remayne, and made somewhat deepe, that they maye plunge therein, for a saying is, a Goose will not like withoute baching and washing her often, no more then a Beast withoute Pa-  
sture.

**A ground and pasture best.**

*Cap. 35.*

**T**he ground and pasture to nourishe Geese best, is that which is like a mar-  
rishe or moyste grounde replenished with grasse and other hearbes, also ye must sow other kinde of feeding for them, as Fet-  
ches, mellilot, the thzee leaued grasse and fenigrike, and specially of Cicory, which the Greekes call Cerys, also it shall bee good to sow of Lettise, for that is a tender hearbe for the Goslings, and Geese  
doeth loue them well, al other  
paulse is meate for  
them.

To choose Ganders and Geese with  
all white Feathers.

Cap. 36.

**S**tephannus sayeth, yee must provide to  
haue of the greatest Ganders & Geese  
that ye can get, and those which are white  
feathered, yet ye shal haue many do breede  
blacke Geese, and haue them as tame as  
the other, but they come of the wild kinde  
and are skant so fruiteful as the other, nor  
so good to haue, wherfore nourishe as few  
of y black Geese as ye may, because their  
fleshe is not so good, for it is more dryer,  
nor their feathers so holesome for beds as  
the other. The goose is very profitable for  
the husbandman and others, and also they  
are great marters of groundes, of profite,  
because there is no greate charge or care  
in breeding them, and they yielde manye  
Egges, and bring forth manye yong, to  
greate profite, for their feathers serues  
many wayes, for beds, for Arrowes, and  
quills for writers: and they are also hurt-  
full vnto groundes, in stayning and mar-  
ring Medowes, and Fieldes with their  
dongue,

## gouernment of Poultrie.

tongue, if they be not kepte oute, they  
hysse hearbes in gardens and spoile corne  
in Fields, their tongue stayne al grounds  
where they come, so that no Beast will  
scant feede after them, the wylde hurte  
common feldes, a number of them in half  
a day will destroy a great peece of wheat,  
if it be but lowe, and the house Geese is  
more hurtfull, for they in feeding will  
pluck vp the rootes of Corne, with the  
blades, & where they dongue there comes  
nothing after, but euill weedes: the Gan-  
ders are louing to all the yong Goslings:  
they are better to be all white then gray,  
or mixte with two coloures, and the black  
coloure is worst of all, and of leaste good-  
nesse.

¶ The laying and setting of Geese, and  
feeding the yong Goslings.

*Cap. 37.*

**T**he Goose doth laye at thre times in  
the spring, if she doe not sitte, at fyrste  
she will lay fve Egges, then foure, and  
then but thre, and some will lay at eache  
time twelue egges, and some more, which  
F. ii. time

## The nourishing and

time is from the fyrste of Marche, vnto the ende of Iune, and then no more, wherfore ye shall not forget her fyrste laye, but set them, for they will prouue best, and y<sup>e</sup> time best to set your Geese, is after winter is gone, as from the firste of Marche vnto Iune, and not after, and when they haue layde their later laye, they will couet to sitte, all the rest of the yeare they lay not, yee muste also looke well to their laying, that they laye not abrode, for when they are encline to laye, they will take vpper strawes as they goe, and will cast them aside here and there, on eache side of them, and soone after then they will laye, wherfore towarde night ye must take them vp, and feele how many be ready to lay, which ye shall perceiue if shee be nye laying, yee shall feele the ende of her egge harde at her bent, then shut her vp, and putte her alone in a neast till she haue layd, so she wil seeke that place agayne to lay, where shee haue bene befoze, and when you sette her take heede of her egges, for ye must sette her of her owne egges, for a Goose loues not to sitte but of her owne egges, if yee set her of others, ye must haue part of hirs  
with.

## gouernment of Poultrie.

withall, and then marke al the other eggs, or else hers with ynke or suche like, for they saye, a Goose will not hatche the eggs of another, if she sitte not of her own withall. They set the Goose on her eggges, as the pchenne on her eggs, with fīue or more vnder her, but at least they sette her with thzee eggges, ye maye set a Goose with seuen or nyne eggges, and the mooste doe set a Goose but with fīfteene Eggges, ye muste also remember when yec sette her, to laye in y straw vnder hir of strong nettle rootes, which will (in hatching) p̄serue y goslings & is speciall good againste the stinging with nettles, for thereby (they saye) they shall take lesse hurt by stinging, and if there chaunce any to be stong, they dye thereof commonly soone after.

To hatch in colde times the Goose wil haue then thirtie dayes, and in temperate tymes she will hatche (being well vsed) in xxv. dayes at the mooste, and when they are hatched they must not then go abrode, or forth of the penne, house, or courte, the space of tenne dayes till they ware more stronger, but feede them in the house with the Dam, and giue them Barly meale, or

## The nourishing and

one meale, or stieped wheate, some do giue them Garden cresse chopte small therewith, whiche will make them to haue an appetite, they giue them sometime of stieped barlye, or mault, or meale, chopt with Hemlockes and so giuen, or else with barlye meale stieped, and mixed with honnyed water, it shal be good to keepe them in the house with the damme, and there to feede them with meate and water, till they may shie the danger of Crowses and Kites, for when they are small, the fleshe crowe will fetter them away, if any remaine behynde the damme: and when they are able to auoyde the crowe, then ye may let them go abroad with the damme, or in a fayre dape being pong, yee maye put them abroad with the dam, hauing one to keepe them, and setting a Bason of water and meat by them, or else not put abroad, and yee must looke they be not stung with nettles, or scrat with byers and thornes, nor when they haue great hunger to let them go abroad, but to giue them Succorpe small chopt, or the tender leaues of Lettise, if ye then let them go abroad to feede in pastures being pong and hungrie, they will  
force

## gouernment of Poultrie.

force themselves to plucke at hearbes,  
which grow fast, and so falles backe, and  
ye sprawling on their backs, are so taken  
with Kytes and Crows. Therefore it  
shall be more sure to keepe them with the  
Danne in the house till they are more of  
strength, and giue them of mill wheate, or  
other wheate steeped in water and sette by  
them, & when they are more stronger, yee  
may put them in houses with others to fat  
as heereafter shall appeare. Stephanus  
saith, at the months end ye may then chose  
your yong geese & fatte them, then take  
the fairest and put them vp into a court or  
penne, and fatte them, for the yonger sort  
of geese ye may fatte them in xxx. dayes, &  
the elder sorte in two moneths, yee must  
giue the meate thise aday, of barley mele  
and whay, or to giue them steeped wheate  
in water and honey. The barley doth make  
their fleshe white, and the whay doth no-  
rishe and fatte them. Some do take figges  
new dride, and thereof makes a paste and  
giues them, and their drinke must be bran  
and water: and some when they doe fatte  
them, do pluck their fetters of their heads  
and bellies, and the great fetters of their  
wyngs,

## The nourishing and

winges, and then steles vp the eyes of the old Geese when they fat them, and giues them beanes and pease and fayre water, which is a good fattening meate for y<sup>e</sup> country Goose, and also they feede them with all sorts of poulse, first soked in warm water and branne which doe feede them wel, and manye doe giue them branne alone, made somewhat fatte, and doth also giue them of lettise, of Succorpe, or Cressis to make them haue an appetite, and feedes them so thise a day.

### ¶ The fattening of yong Geese.

Cap. 38.

Columella sayeth, when yong Geese are foure moneths olde, then they take the greatest and fayrest to fatte them, for while they are yet but yong, it is the better fattening of them, then when they are more older, and these neede not to haue no other thing but Barley meale, and the flower of meale, and to be fedde therewith thise a daye, and they must haue drinke continually with their meate, ye must also keepe them in a close house or dark pen,  
and

## gouernment of Poultrie.

and kepte warme withall, which serueth much to make them forwarde to fatte, and thus in two moneths ye may fat the well, or in sixe weekes, the sooner when they are yong and tender, then when they are tough and olde, and some will chaunge their meate often, and they will feede the better, and be the sooner fatte.

**H**ow manye Geese to one Gander, with other gouernment.

*Cap. 39.*

**O**ur Aunceters did giue but 3. Geese to one gander, and we giue sixe, but for marring & staining of meadowes, pastures, and fields, they are profitable for the husband and keeper of house, as anye other fowle, and they require a small tending, but when they are yong, for the space of 3 weekes, or a moneth, and so long to haue a keeper till they be oute of daunger of the Crow and Kite, and to keepe them from eating euill weedes, as henbane which is calde the death of Geese, and Hemlocke which is not good for them to eate much thereof, for it will make them sleepe so much,

## The nourishing and

much, that they may be soone taken, and are in daunger (as some say) to dye thereof, to haue manye in a flocke is not good, they vse not aboue thirtie Geese in one flocke, and our Anceters did vse but xx. in a flocke, for the bigger will beate, and be mayster alwayes of the lesser, both abroad and in houses, therefore it shall bee good to part eche breeding houses by themselves, whiche houses muste be alwayes kept dry, for they loue to sit drie a nights, and to be strewd with fresh and soft straw, or with soft hay, and oft to be clenfed for breeding of Uermine, because that Geese are more subiect thereunto, then the hens are, the rest of their gouernement & meate is like vnto other fowle, and take heed of bypers, nettles, Snakes, and other venomous wormes, while they are yong, for a small thing killes them soone after their hatching.

(.)

OF

## gouernment of Poultrie.

**O**f the feathers of Geese, whiche are best, and what time to pluck them.

*(ap. 40.)*

**T**he profite that manye good huswines doe finde by Geese feathers and others is this: they vse in many places yearly to take a fleece of their Geese, as men doe of their Sheepe, whiche feathers commonlye they take in Iuly and August, and in some places they take their Geese feathers twice a yere, in marche they clip all saue their bellies, to couer their yong, & they plucke in August, and some doe plucke in Marche, and sayeth their feathers will come the sooner or rather then when they are clippe, for in clipping the quilles remaine still till melting time, wherefore plucking them is rather counted better (then clipping) to haue two fleeces a yere. Thus yee maye vse them as ye shall see cause, to haue their feathers for a more profite to furnish yearly your beddes which are occupied dayly, as in Iynes and such, but

## The nourishing and

but whereas there are greete poudes of  
rivers nye your house, it is great danger  
to pluck the feathers of their bellies, for  
whereas such cold waters are, it is a dan-  
ger to kill them, as experience hath shew-  
ed in some places of this realme, therfore  
if ye plucke their bellies, to keepe them  
from such places for a time it shal do best.  
Of all feathers the swanne is the cheefest,  
and the feathers of the white Goose next,  
the black or gray Goose feather next him  
and the Capon and pullet next, likewise al  
other lande fowle, then Ducke, Wegin,  
Teale, and such water fowle are next, and  
are best to be rather put in cushions then  
in beds, because they are moze hotter, and  
a greater soker of men in beds, then the o-  
ther, and the Pigion worste feather of all,  
for they soke too muche to be put in beds,  
and are vnwholesome, for they say if a sick  
persō lye on a pillow of pignons feathers,  
he shall long continue so without depar-  
ting, which thing I hardly beleue, and  
likewise all sick feathers or bloodye fea-  
thers are not good to be put in beds, nor  
Cushions, because they doe commonlye  
breede wormes, therfore it is not good  
to

## gouernment of Poultrye.

to put any in beds or colshions: thus much  
concerning the nature and goodnesse of  
the Gose feather and others.

¶ Of Duckes, Teales, Sheldrakes, and  
such like, *Cap. 41.*

### *Columella,*

**T**ame Duckes ( among the rest of wa-  
ter fowle ) is mosste profitable for the  
husband mans house , and for once a yee  
they are layers of many egges, and bree-  
ders also of many young, with a small at-  
tendaunce as the goose, saue in the time  
while they are young, and to haue the like  
places conuenient to nourishe them in as  
the goose, but somewhat more chargeable,  
because they are great feeders, and for all  
other sorts of water foule, as wilde ducks  
sheldrakes, wigions, morehennes, cootes,  
and such fowle of the ponds : ye shal hard-  
lye make them tame being olde, and lyke-  
wise all other byrdes that vseth to feede  
in waters and marreshes, which are calde  
of our auncientes, byrdes of double liuing  
or nourishment, to nourish and keepe such  
whiche

which are accustomed so to feed, and keepe  
 them in house, ye must chuse a playn place  
 closed about with hye walles of xv. foote  
 and couered aboue with railes, wyar, or  
 nets of big corde, to the end they flye not  
 out, nor eagles, Kites, bozards, or crows,  
 shall come in, and all the walles without  
 and within ought to be polished smooth,  
 to the end that cattles, or other venemous  
 woymes may not catch hold and climbe to  
 come in, and in the midst of the same court  
 yee must make a ponde of two foote deepe,  
 So long & wyde as the place will serue,  
 and that the water there may run ful con-  
 tinually to the byntime thereof, that the  
 bankes may not be marde, and also made  
 with plaister, and cimmond in the bottom,  
 and all about the sides, paved with smooth  
 stone, that no weeds do grow therein, but  
 that the fowle may haue cleere water still  
 run thozow, and in the midst ye shal make  
 a mount of earth, & thereon some beanes  
 of Egip, and such other greene herbes as  
 comonly comes in waters, to couer & hide  
 those fowle therin: for some of them loues  
 to be hid in tusces of grasse, roses, sedge,  
 and such: notwithstanding ye muste not co-  
 uer

ner their holes, for (as I haue saide) the  
 water must be all the day without weeds,  
 to this end, that in the heate of the daye,  
 when they would come forth to bathe and  
 picke them they maye then swimme and  
 plunge in the cleere water at pleasure, for  
 so it is best agreing to their nature, wher-  
 as they may enter into water at their wil  
 to take pleasure and watch for small fishe  
 therein, or flies vppon the water. There-  
 fore ye shall do them great wrong, to put  
 them where they cannot come to the wa-  
 ter when they would, and all about be-  
 neath at the bottom of the walles, ye shall  
 make holes xx. foote from the water, and  
 all the sides couered with herbes, and by  
 the wall sides to make holes of stone, a  
 foote square, then couer the to make their  
 nestes therein, and garnished all aboute  
 with boughes and bzaunches which they  
 will like the better, and yee must make a  
 channell for to conuay the running water.  
 & use to feed your fowle in the saide water  
 as other fowle, & to giue them myll wheat  
 or pannicke wheat, or other grayne, and  
 feed them in the saide water, or with bar-  
 ly, ground coynes, and pomes of reasons,  
 whiche

which is also good for fishe, which ye shall  
put in the water (to feede them) of Treuis  
shrimpes, loches, Mennes, bansticles, and  
such riuier or brooke fishe, whiche will ne-  
uer wate bigge, all these they will take  
pleasure to hunt after in the water. The  
wylde Ducke when she layes, the Drake  
shall not know, for if he might knowe, hee  
woulde sucke all her egges, they treade  
in the time of the spring, as other wylde  
Fowle doe, in Marche or after, in whiche  
time ye must cast vnto them of rushes, or  
bentes, and small twigs into their court,  
whiche they will gather, and make their  
neastes withall. There is an ancient rule  
that whensoever ye woulde haue a greate  
flocke of these fowle, yee muste gather of  
wylde Ducke egges where they lay, and  
put them to a henne to hatche, and when  
they are hatched, they will then leaue  
their wilnesse with vse of the henne, and  
then when they wate bigge, ye maye put  
them into your close Courte, as I haue a-  
foresayde, and these will breede and mul-  
tiplie, for if ye take wilde Duckes which  
are accustomed to liue at libertie, and the  
shut vp in a close place, they will neuer  
laye,

laye, being so kept, very few or none. A  
saying is, if ye touche the egges of a wilde  
Ducke when shee layes, with your bare  
hande, she will not come and laye no more  
there, and if ye take awaye still her egges  
and leaue but one, she will still lay till there  
be so poore, that yee shall take her on the  
nest. This shall suffice here for the kee-  
ping of the Duckes, and other Water  
Fowle.

**How to take your wilde Ducks in the  
Court.** *Cap. 42.*

*Stephanus.*

**W**hen as you would haue any of your  
wilde Duckes taken, to make them  
more tamer, ye shall cast (in the court) vnto  
them graine mixt with the lies of wine  
sweete wyne, or sower, and lay it on their  
accustomed place to feede; while them also  
paste made with Wine, or a lettuin paste  
with branne and Wine lyes, cast it in the  
sayde place, and when they haue eaten  
thereof, they will be dronke, then ye maye  
take and chuse of the best withoute greace

The nourishing and  
trouble of the other fowle.

¶ The common feeding and the nature  
of Duckes. Cap. 43.

**T**he Ducke is a grosse, greedy, and  
filthie feeder, and a hote Byrde of Na-  
ture, and still will be eating. They vse to  
feede them with all kinde of pulce, as pee  
feede a hogge, and to haue them fatte they  
geue them gurgions of corne, but ye must  
alwayes let them haue water by them, for  
they must still bee drinkeing as they eate,  
they loue also to wander in sommer in the  
euening, in August and September to  
seeke after Wormes, Beetles, Frogs and  
Toades, and they wil eate them, and when  
she hath hatched, shee is carefull of her  
yong, if any of y<sup>e</sup> yong be stong or angerde  
they be so peuishe, they will dye straighte  
waie, and yet many lets them go with the  
dam into Waters or pooles, being but  
two or three dayes olde: she will make her  
neast her selfe, againste the laye and sitte,  
and so she hatches in xxv. dayes, or xxviii.  
at the most.

The wilde Ducke will steale from the  
Drake

## gouernment of Poultrie.

Drake, and when she hath layd and hatcht she is very subtile when she hath yong, for if any person come npe them, she will flie flapping npe before him on the ground as though her backe were broken & could not flie, thus will she cise him a good way from her yong, and then will she take her flighte to her yong agayne. Duckes egges hatcht vnder a henne will bee of a better meate, then those hatcht with a Ducke. Duckes are not good to bring vp chickens, for she cannot call as the henne will to euery crumme she findes, and the Ducke loues the water, and the Chickin the Land, nor the Duck cannot scrape as the henne will, nor the hen good to bring vp Ducklinges, for she loues not to go into the water with them, and thereby oftentimes they are taken away with the Bozard, or Kye, when she cannot help them, and those Ducks that haue bene brought vp vnder a henne, the Drakes of that broode will desire to tread the hennes, and one Drake is sufficient for vi. Ducks, also Duckes that are trod of the Crow, they neuer prosper, and are vniwholesome to eate, as they say, agayne they saye, the

G.ii. Ducklings

Ducklinges that are brought up under a  
henne, they will bee alwayes desirous to  
bee about the house, and on the dry ground  
npe the house not abroade, nor yet in wa-  
ters, which is their nature, whereby your  
house and courtes cannot bee long cleane  
kept where they vse, and yet by nature  
they should commonly loue the wa-  
ter.

Thus much for the na-  
ture and feeding of

Duckes.

And now we will  
come to the manner of  
their breeding, and the  
care of their young.

The Ducke will  
not be content to  
sit on the water, but  
will come to the  
ground to hatch  
her eggs, and will  
be very diligent  
in the care of  
her young.

And when the  
young are hatched,  
she will lead them  
to the water, and  
teach them to swim  
and to feed.

And thus we have  
seen the manner of  
their breeding.

**¶ Of Turquie hennes profite and also disprofite.**

Cap. 44.

Stephanus saith, they that first brought these Turquies into Fraunce, calbe the the peacocks of Indoe, whiche doth rather enrich the mouth, then any great profit to the farmer or breeder: for they are a right coser for oates, & a sack for corne, a gulfe, a swallower of barns, a deuourer of much meat. They cannot receiue so much pleasure by them, but as much trouble and anger whē they are great, for they be great strayers abroad, & being young they are alwaies crying for meate, with puling & complayning of the rye, or gout, or suche like, and soone dye thereof if they bee not well kept. True it is, their fleshe is delicate, but heauy and harde of digestion: therfore they must be well basted and larded, and yet there is much more goodnes in the fleshe of Peacocks, then in them. They were brought into England about the eight and twenty yeere of the raigne

The nourishing and  
of king Henry the eight.

The nourishing of olde

Turquies. Cap. 45.

The nourishing of these fowle, is like  
the feeding of hennes and other poul-  
trie, and with the lyke meate when they  
are bigge, and as much tendauce or com-  
monly more, because they will strape a-  
broad to seeke their meate, it may be well  
sayde to the farmer or breeder: so manye  
Turquies in his court, so manye moile-  
coltes in hys stable to feede. Their tray-  
ning in dede is more easier then of other  
Peacokes, nor doth not demaund such o-  
pen ayre, but their feeding is a more grea-  
ter destruction in Gardens, of leekes, oni-  
ons, & al other kinds of other good herbs,  
which they will eat, and wyll commonly  
feede of grasse, as well as the goose, & are  
as fullsome in the house as the geese.

The age of Turquie cockes best  
to treade. Cap. 46.

Our Turquie cockes that ye keepe to  
treade

## gouernment of Poultrie.

reade your hennes, ought not to be passing a yere, or two yeres old, three yeres is the moste or too muche, for being olde they are so heauy in treading, they wyl commonlye hurt the hennes, in brooding their backs and treading of theyr fethers of their backs, and also it is not good to keepe two cockes in treading time: for one will hinder the other, so shal your hennes egges come to smal profite in setting, and yee shal haue some cockes will pecke and kill the chickens if they be put forth being very yong, and againe ye shal haue some cockes will loue and keepe their chickens as tender as the hennes. Therefore bee sure to know your cocke to loue the chickens, when ye put them forth yong, and also when they goe feeding abroad, they will not lightlye keepe one place to rooste in, as other poultrie will, wherefore yee must daylye looke vnto them for leasing, for sometime they will sit in high wayes on the ground, sometime on lowe places nye the ground, and here is to be noted, ye must not vse your hogges to feede on carrion or dead flesh about your house, for if they catche eating of fleshe, they will not

Sticke to eat your poultrie on their nests,  
or your Turquies when they sitte on the  
ground a nights, or any lowe places nigh  
the earth, and they will not styre if yee  
touche them, wherefore they are in more  
daunger of stealing or deuouring diuers  
wayes, then other poultrie are.

¶ Of the Turquie hennes sitting, hat-  
ching, and nourishing the chic-  
kens. *Cap. 47.*

**T**he Turquie hennes doe commonlye  
laye as the house hennes doe, but they  
will commonly lay away in secrete places  
of their own seeking, as in bushes, hedges  
and such, if yee looke not well vnto them.  
They begin to lay in Marche, and they  
doe vse to set them in Aprill when the great  
colde is past on nine or eleuen egges. Som-  
times more, they doe hatche in xxv. dayes,  
and whē they haue hatched, yee must feede  
them with curdes soaked in strong ale or  
wyne, and such tender meate, as sod wheat  
in ale or beare, for the hennes will neuer  
call or feede their yong (as other hennes  
will) therefore yee must giue them often  
meate

## gouernment of Poultrye.

meate being yong in fire oz eyghte dayes till they were moze of strength, and then ye maye giue them sod barlye, and moze stronger meate, the dew will kill them, if they eate thereof, and to bring vppe your Turquie chickens in the house, they will not like so well, as to lette them goe with the Damme in some safe place abrode, and better they will like abrode then in the house, but in wete and cold times ye must see them kept warm a nights, oz else they will soone catthe the goute, crampe, oz the rye, and being yet yong they can bide no colde abrode, also those hennies that laieth their later laye and sitte, they bring vp their chickens about mid Auguste, oz after, which chickens are so tender in winter following they will hardly prosper, for they may abide no colde, but haue the like diseases aforesayde, therefore to sell oz eate them is best, the best time for Turquie hennies to hatche (here in Englande) is in Aprill, when the cheefe colde is past, and also to house them in winter is best, to keepe them from the diseases afoze mentioned.

When as any of your Turquies haue  
the

## The nourishing and

the rie and therewith droope, yee shall make a long pellet of two, with sope, butter and pepper, mixe them altogether, and so giue it them a morninges, and they will mende, and if your Turquies be greate, and hauing swoln eyes in winter by cold, ye shall slit it with a sharpe Knife, then shall yee see the humoure leape out, then washe it with ale, or wine, and if it fill againe, open still & wash it till it be whole, also when they begin to droope, yee shall put downe their throates, two or three of sow wormes with manye fecte, and then take fennyll a little, & broose it, then make it like a pelot, and put it after down their throates, and so let them go and they will amend. Thus ye may keepe the safe (with good looking to) from tyme to tyme, tyll they be great as the damme.

¶ The feeding and the ordering of Turquie hennies and chickens. Cap. 48.

They vse in some places to giue the Turquie chickens new hatched curds and antes egges, for seuen or eight daies, of barley meale, mixte with penniriall, and made

## gouernment of Poultrie.

made in paste with good ale or wine, litle  
drinke but curdes, and antea eggcs, and  
to giue them mellilot herbe with otemele  
and milke, which is a greate feeder: or I-  
lope, or to giue them of percely, and some-  
times they giue them chopt onions, lecke  
blades, time, and such like: any of those  
chopt small with the foresaide barley mele  
or otemele, and tempered with strong ale,  
or beere, and made in paste (as aforesaide)  
and so giuen in smale pellots, it will saue  
them and deliuer them from the rye, pippe  
and swelling in their beades, & the gouce  
in their feete, which commonly comes of  
cold and to much drinke: also in winter ye  
maye mixe with their meate a little aqua  
uite with ale, which will in likewise saue  
them from the the rhume, & other diseases:  
moreouer when as any haue taken colde  
on their feete being but young, if yee rub  
his legges and feete (with neats oyle) in  
wet and colde times, it will saue the from  
the crampe, and when they are greate and  
olde, Some (for want of other meate) doe  
feede them in winter with hawes, and  
heps, black berries, nut Kernels, acornes,  
& such, which thinges they will eate, be-  
ing

## The nourishing and

ing hungry, for they are hotte birdes of nature & great raneners withall, among the hennes, the white Turquie henne is esteemed better then the other coloures, to hatch and bring vp their chickens: for they are of a moze harder and kinder nature then the other commonly are, & wyll kepe their chickens better: also if a Turquie henne do hatch and bring vppe other henne chickens with hers, when they waxe bigge, she will knowe they are none of hir kinde, and she will beate them and dzyue them away, and so long as your turquie chickens be young, yee shall geue them of sod barly in ale or beere, or stieped in wine and it will pferue them from those dys-eases, which commonly they are troubled with all herre in England, for our countrey is moze colder (as it shoulde seme) then from whence they came first, and so long as they are yet young, they are tender and soone hurt by venom & sting.

ing wyth nettels and suche,  
till they be a quarter  
old or moze.

(or) if you will geue them  
of sod barly in ale or beere,

The common feeding of  
Turquies. Cap. 49.

**T**he nourishing and common feeding of  
those kinde of fowle, is as I haue sayd  
like the feeding of other poultrie & hens,  
and with as much or more diligence, else  
there is no difference, but they muste haue  
much more meate, and their training is  
easier but to haue tendance while they are  
yet young, their manner of feeding I haue  
afore declared: they are filthy birdes in a  
house, wherefore the maide must come al-  
waies after them with a besome, to cleanse  
where they haue been, the hennes will lay  
like our hennes, if they bee well kept all  
the yere: and when they haue layde a cer-  
taine time, they will couet to sit, and per-  
maple them as you do other hennes, and  
to giue their egges vnto other hennes to  
sit & gouerne while she end hir lay. Their  
diseases and remedies are like other poul-  
trie: wherefore it is superfluous to say here  
any more, but as some do say, when they  
are very fat, they will not lay so well nor  
take the rooke, as when they are kept in a  
meane.

Of.

Of Peacockes the nature  
and feeding. Cap. 50.

The Peacocke is a strange bird to feed  
and to gouerne, for they hardly bee so  
familiar with any person, as other birdes  
will. A bryefe rehersall of Columella,  
which saith, to nourishe peacockes requi-  
reth a more dilligence in a Ciuile person,  
then in a rude & troublesome farmer: for  
it is the part of a good keeper of birdes, to  
seeke all meanes hee canne to make them  
gentle and tame, inso doing, yet may easi-  
ly nourishe these kinde of birdes, or else  
not, and to haile places made fit for them  
to be kept in: the greatest parte of their  
feeding they provide for themselves abroad.  
The Pehentie doeth willinglye nourishe  
her young, as though she were in bondage  
vnto them. They do prepare for them a  
square court with high walles to nourish  
and feede them in, and there vse them to  
the cal when they do feed them, like other  
poultrye. Their delight is to be alwayes  
among bushes abroad, & they tower their  
walles, & makes round aboute long galle-

## government of Poultry.

ries for the to walke vnder, with perches  
made square, and mortred on the walles,  
and often to be made cleane. Afoze thze  
peeres the hennes are commonly barren,  
and of smale heate, and after thze peeres  
they will breed well. The Cockes haue an  
amorous heate, as muche as the house  
cockes, and therefore they giue hym fve  
or six hennes, for he is ready to treade the  
henne that comes from laying. Wherefoze  
hee marres the egges of some within the  
henne, which are not yet already formed, &  
hee wyl not suffer her to bring them to  
perfection, and by the anger then of that  
henne, the egge fales from her befoze they  
are halfe ripe: also at the end of winter ye  
must feede both male and females, & giue  
them plenty of meate to make the in more  
heate, to giue parched beanes on the im-  
bers when they are colde, is a good feede  
for them, to giue to eache birde twelue  
pounces thereof, and to vse it foure or fve  
daies together.

And also to feede eache by themselves in  
their pennes, and to set faire water by the  
alwaies, and when ye put them abroad,  
let the males go with the females whiche  
wyl

will doe well; ye shall haue some Cockes  
so fierre, that they will not suffer other  
cockes to tread their hennes. Therefore  
in all such times it shall doe well to sepe-  
rate them with perticions, in hotter coun-  
treys the pecockes doe enter into their  
heate, when the East. windes commonlye  
blowes: as sayeth Fauonius, whiche is  
from the xv. of February, vnto Marche or  
after, the signe when they enter into heat,  
is, when the Cockes doe spread their taile  
feathers, y<sup>e</sup> saying is, they make a wheele.  
So when the hennes are troden; ye must  
looke they laye not in out places abroad,  
but in their houses, and at euentinges ye  
must feele if any henne be nye to laye, or  
harde with egge; for in laying they will  
let them sodayn fall from them, wherefore  
ye shall shut them vp which will laye, so  
that they lay not abroad, but in their hou-  
ses, whiche muste bee strewe thicke with  
strawe vnder their perches, to saue their  
egges when they fall from them, for as  
they sitte on their pearches, sodayne their  
egges falles from the hennes, and then if  
they light not softe, they breake. There-  
fore make your pearche the lower, that  
they

## governement of Poultrie.

they fall not so fatre, and their laying is  
in the morning, then searche diligently  
for to gather up their egges, which egges  
will sooner hatche being newe then bee-  
ing olde, and when ye set any henne, those  
pehennes that sit not, will laye their lay-  
inges in the spring of the yeare, and those  
that sitte were so poore and troubled in  
bringing up of hir chickens, those hennes  
will laye no more that yere, the other that  
laye commonly thise, the firste time thee  
will lay commonly five egges, the se-  
conde tyme four egges, and the thirde  
tyme thee will laye but thye or else two  
egges.

The time best to set your pehennae.

And when you wil set your henne, ye  
must set her with some henne egges  
withall, which ye must chuse to bee fayre,  
olde and great, and sette your henne with  
the, in the beginning of y<sup>e</sup> Moone, & set her  
with nine eggs to sit thereon nine days, of  
which egges there ought to bee five pe-  
hennes

## The nourishing and

henne egges, and foure henne egges, and  
on the tenth day, take awaye all the henne  
egges, and put vnder her foure other hen  
egges, to the end that on the thirtith day,  
after, in the next new Moone, all will  
hatche together, and when the henne doth  
rise and is gone from her nest, yee muste  
turne her Egges with your hande, and  
those that ye turne, marke the upper sides  
thercof with ynke, that ye maye knowe  
which is turned when she riseth agayne,  
and when she hath hatched let her then go  
wth the young, not farre abroad before  
foue & thirtie dayes, but tye hir by the leg  
with a long string, and so keepe her in, ye  
must also see to the yong pecockes, where  
the damme doe loue them or not, for some  
will forsake them, and ye shall suffer no o-  
ther henne that haue yong Chickens, to  
come where the Pechicks are, untill they  
be great, for shee which haue other Chic-  
kens of hers, her nature is such, shee will  
hate and forsake her owne Chickens, and  
loue the other, because shee seeth the Pe-  
chickes greater and fayrer then her own.  
The pehennes haue the like disease, as o-  
ther

## gouernment of Poultrie.

ther poultrie haue, and are cured with the like medicines, as the rie, wyne, and such and when they are seven moneths olde, ye must then see they be had to roost a night with their dammes, but let them not sitte on the bare earth, if they sit thereon, yee shall see them on pearches as aforesayde, to the ende they take no colde, for that will bring them to like diseases as the other.

## Of the goodnesse of the Pecoockes flesh, and their nature in laying.

Cap. 34

**S**tephanus sayth, that Pecoockes flesh doeth nourish much, and are greene eaters, and hard to bring up or breed. They neede no dayly tendance, but let them go with their dammes. They will marre Gardens and fieldes of coye, they haue a hote temperate ayre, and so breede alone in bushes: our auncetours made make inclosures by their Gardens and houses, with cages therein for them to go in, and

## The nourishing and

other closures to nourish them in: but  
we make not so great matter of it, it shall  
suffice her to lodge them above the henne-  
house, and yet they loue to be at libertie,  
and sit on the Trees, rather then in hou-  
ses or places beneath, which places ought  
to be dayly cleane kepte, and where as  
they sitte a nightes, yee shall often finde  
their egges fallne from them, and after a  
henne hath layd and hatched, and brought  
forth her yong, she will lay seldome in  
three yeares after, and when a Henne be-  
ginneeth to laye, shee will seale from the  
Cocke, and laye in some secret place, then  
he will not cease to seeke, if hee can fynde  
hir, if he then find hir nest, he wil breake  
all her egges, for he hateth to see the yong  
till they haue creastes on their heades: a-  
bout the first dayes she will hatche, and be-  
ing hatched, they keepe them in the penne  
or nest with the dam, that the Cocke see  
them not, for he will then pecke and hurte  
them, till they haue their creastes on  
Combes on their head, then after he will  
loue them well, wherefore vnto that time  
ye must keepe them well and warme, for  
they will soone be sicke, and the most part  
very

## gouernment of Poultrie.

very seldom liueth till they bee greate,  
the Cockes be hardie, and they saie bee  
cannot abide to see any venemous wormes,  
as Snakes and such, but will fighte with  
them and kill them.

### The hatching and feeding of yong Pechicks. Cap. 53.

**T**he firste daye of their hatching, they  
perfume them with rosemary in a fine  
ouer coles, and then they giue them barley  
meale tempered with wine, and made like  
a chicke paste, and softe Cheese kneaded  
therein, but presse out all the salt, for  
Althowe y<sup>e</sup> cleare milke doth much annoy  
them, also ye shall sometimes throw vnto  
them of Grasshoppers, in taking awaye  
their legges, and sometime they doe giue  
them weuels, Sow Wormes, and Spi-  
ders for to cure them, for they will chiefe-  
ly seeke for those things, and will be where  
they haue, and if they find few thereof,  
after six weekes they giue the boyls bar-  
ly as they doe the hantons, and lets them  
go with her, but keepe them from cold and  
raime, for they will come pale and pale

these winges in tinctment after by a little  
colde taking, specially if they be not hat-  
ched by mid June, in Autumne being the  
but young, it they will neuer endure all the  
winter, in hatching they turne hir egges  
when she is from the nest, for hir egges be-  
ing grea, she cannot turne hir selfe ther-  
fore yee muste then turne them with your  
hand as is afoze declared, and marke the  
upper sides of them, else yee may turne the  
amisse, and when they be hatched, giue al  
the pechickes to the pehenne, & all the hen  
chickens vnder the house henne, but let not  
hir come where the pechickes are, and if  
she see them, because they shep more faire  
and greater then hers, shee will not ascer-  
tune hir owne chickens.

**The sicknes of Pehennes**  
Cap. 54.

**P**ehennes and Peachicks are very sick  
when they moue their feathers, which  
is a kinde of chiluelle as some doe suppose:  
then must yee heate the with hony, wheat,  
oates, and beanes ground grea, they are  
also in a great heate, in p. consolat. daies,  
then

## gouernment of Poultrie.

then must ye giue them alwaies fresh water because of their heate, they do giue to each cocke, v. hennes for change, for whē hir eggēs are but tender within hir, her will tread her agayne, and so broode those eggēs within her, and so they fall from hir and come to nought. Thus much for the gouernment of Peacocks & Pehennes.

## ¶ The nature and feeding of Swannes. Cap. 55.

Stephanus saith, the haunt and feeding of Swannes, is like y<sup>e</sup> feeding of geese their delight is in certain places, as in rivers, pooles, brookes, mires and standing pooles, and they are as sone made tame as geese. They vse commonly myres, & fresh waters, but they hurt and destroye muche fishe, and sometimes they eate of greene corne, if it be ne their haunt, as well as the tame or wilde Goose, to haue a couple in your ponde, or two couple for greate neede, where as many Swans are breed, there is no great store of fishe, they treade their hennes on the water, as well as on the Lande, the hennes will make their

these winges (at onment after by a little  
colde taking, specially if they be not hat-  
ched by mid June, in Autumne being the  
but young, it they will neuer endure all the  
winter, in hatching they turne hir eggs  
when she is from the nest, for hir eggs be-  
ing grea, she cannot turne hir selfe ther-  
fore yee muste then turne them with your  
hand as is afoze declared, and marke the  
upper sides of them, else ye may turne the  
amisse, and when they be hatched, giue al  
the pechickes to the pehenne, & all the hen  
chickens vnto the house henne, but let not  
hir come where the pechickes are, and if  
she see them, because they shee more faire  
and greater then hers, shee will not aske  
for hir owne chickens.

**The sicknes of Pehenne,**  
Cap. 54.

**P**ehennes and Pechickes are very sick  
when they moue their feathers, which  
is a kinde of chills as some doe suppose:  
then must ye heate the wiche hony, wheat,  
oates, and beanes ground grea, they are  
also in a grea heate, in p. consular daies,  
then

## gouernment of Poultrie.

then must ye giue them alwayes fresh water because of their heate, they do giue to each cocke, v. hennes for change, for whē hir egges are but tender within hir, yet will tread her agayne, and so broose those egges within her, and so they fall from hir and come to nought. Thus much for the gouernment of Peacocks & Pehennes.

### **T**he nature and feeding of Swannes. *Cap. ss.*

**S**tephanus saith, the haunt and feeding of Swannes, is like y<sup>e</sup> feeding of geese their delight is in certain places, as in ri- uers, pooles, brookes, mires and standing pooles, and they are as sone made tame as geese. They vse commonly myres, & fresh waters, but they hurt and destroye muche fishe, and sometimes they eate of greene corne, if it be ne their haunt, as well as the tame or wilde Goose, to haue a couple in your ponde, or two couple for greate neede, where as many Swans are bred, there is no great store of fishe, they treade their hennes on the water, as well as on the Lande, the hennes will make their

neasts themselves without cover. They  
delighte to builde on flannes compassed  
with water, they must oft be clensed, for  
they file much, if they haue not sufficient  
meate, ye must feede them, and giue them  
bread soaked in water, and certayne small  
fishes, for these fowle are gluttons and ra-  
ueners of meate, and therefore they must  
often be fedde. They lay and sit but once a  
yeare, and most commonlye they laye but  
three egges, excepte they like the place,  
and be well fedde withall, then they will  
haue five, some seuen, and some nyne yong  
synets, but that is seldome seene. When  
they choose their makes they will lightly  
not change, so long as both doe live,  
and if some other Cocke, Swanne doe  
chaunce to treade his henne, he will knowe  
it, and then he will neuer leaue him, till  
hee haue kilde him that hath done  
it: and the Cocke sittes when  
the henne is gone to  
seede.

The

## gouernment of fowles.

**¶ The nourishing and fattening of Swannes.** *Capitulum.*

**T**hey be to fette Swannes, both in open Courtes, and in houses, and they give them such meate as they doe in fattening of Geese, as soaked bread, soy barley, grounde beanes, with Otes, at poulle, and such like: they chieflye doe loue mayste meates, and thus may ye fat them in fix or eyght weekes, in often churningg their meate, and cleansing their places, for they doe stee much: The flesh of old Swannes ingendereth euill iuyce, and increaseth Melancholy. Thus much of Swannes.

**¶ The order and profite of Pigeons, and place for them.**

*Capitulum.*

**S**tephanus sayth, the profite in nourishing penguins, is no lesse then the profite of poultrie, speciallye where they breede manye and often, and where the sale for them is good, in some places they haue taken at one flighte two or thye hundredth paire

payre of yong Pigeons to sell, and bestow  
other wayes, and these foule neede not so  
much loking to as other fowle, trow it is,  
they are great eaters & deuourers of cozne  
in fieldes, and therefore it is not permitted  
or thought good for most men to builde the  
Dovehouses from the earth, but where  
there is much crable grounde of theires  
in those fieldes nye thereunto.

Let vs then for the easement of the far-  
mer haue a Dovehouse from the grounde  
made and set in a place nicete and hye for  
it, by his house, or ouer his house in a tow-  
er, or Touret of stone or claye, and placed  
very nye some water, because a Pigeon is  
a hote byrde, and doe heat the meate they  
haue taken to giue their yong, therefore  
they require water, also it is certayne the  
Pyre, and the sparrow, as well the Males  
as the Females, doe couer theire Egges  
when the henne is gone to feede, the cocks  
doe sit in the meane tyme on their egges,  
thus they vse to couer, till the yong be out  
of their shelles, so much not the male doves  
therefore it is not so much to be regarded,  
whether the Dovehouse bee open or not,  
but places for them to come and go, and to

make

make

## gouernment of Poultrie.

make a windowe towards the south side,  
in summer for them to sleepe in, & in winter  
to giue heat into the pidgeonhouse, and  
make your house sure as the foundation,  
and wel plastered within, and with smooth  
stone couched close in the bottom, for feare  
of their tongue do not corrupt the place  
which must be fayre and euen within, and  
the chapes and holes alway seene too, and  
stop close for feare of Weasels, polecats,  
rattes and mice, for these doe commonly  
happen in douehouses which are not well  
seene to cope shall opene your Douchouse  
without, close made, for in Creuisses and  
crackes, vermine will seeke to enter, and  
so will deuoure both olde and yong doves,  
for the like danger is in a douehouse, as  
in a henhouse, therefore ye shall make two  
centers, about your douehouse without,  
like battlements of stone, boyde of leade,  
one in the midst of the wall without, and  
another under the windoe or eaves, where  
as the Doves may enter, or sit and proie  
them thereon. Some doe naye plates of  
leade all aboute the windowe vnto the  
walles, and they make as it were a Per-  
cullis settye with laths together, whiche  
maye

maye be draught in evening and morning  
for daunger of bats owles, and Cats, and  
on the toppe of the couer or lower, they  
make the figure of a Dove, to draw other  
flying by to come there, ye may also place  
sparrow pats all aboute your Dovehouse  
without, and hang sagots of thornes by,  
but alwayes see to your Dovehouse, that  
none of these euill vermine aforesayde doe  
haunt your house, for they will seare the  
old, and devour the yong.

To replenish your Dovehouse, and to  
chooseth the best breeders.

**Cap. 58.**  
**A**t the beginning for to furnish your  
dovehouse with yong Doves, it shall  
bee thought sufficient to haue xx. payre of  
yong peregons with feathers, but cōsidering  
forth, for those are best: to haue old doves  
it is a daunger, for they will resourne home  
agayne to their first company, and some  
monly such a care they haue, or else to some  
other company. Among the cheefest breed-  
ders it is good to haue the ashe colour, the  
brown, & the black peregion, also the grasse  
with

## gouernment of Poultie.

with a copte beade, and the russet colour,  
and those which are gilded about the necke,  
and those which haue red eyes, and redde  
feete, are most frankest and best breeders,  
and cheefest replenishers of houses; the  
white pегion is not so good a breeder, and  
he is seene farre off; and thereby moſte in  
daunger of bites, Bizarres, Ringes, and  
Dibbles, and Haukes. The darke yellowe,  
or dun pегion, and the red and tawny col-  
lor they breede ſeldome, but to ſerue for  
the kitchen, and make them tame, ye ſhall  
giue them ſweet mil wheate, and then fet-  
cher, when cometh, for theſe graynes will  
make them loue the houſehold, and ſome-  
times you ſhall giue them the gurgions of ſiſter  
whetted, as when not go forth of the houſe  
of ſiſter whetted after ye haue taken them  
and when ye giue them leaſe to go forth,  
let it be towards the evening, or in a  
ſublimed moon, and the time, to the end  
ye ſhall the pегion ſeeke, and not ſee, and  
and, ſhall ye ſee long forth of the  
theſe ye ſhall ſee the pегion ſeeke, and not ſee,  
to haue theſe ſeeke, and not ſee, and  
is ſhall charge to ſeeke them in open ſeeke  
ſhall ye ſee the pегion ſeeke, and not ſee,  
Time

## The Sparrowhuntinge

At times to feede them, and to mayne-  
taine your broode. *Copie*  
Rue it is, that Pigeons are more cha-  
rable to the farmer in Winter, then  
in Sommer, or in times of frost and snow  
or when the wheat is not blossomed, for  
then they can finde nothing in the fields  
but beens and carlocke seedes, wherefore  
there is a charge about two monethes, and  
more then to give the meate, one of those  
a daye ye shall doe well, in this time you  
must let your fowle broode flye, to replenish  
your house all the yeare after, which time  
they call from Marche to into Aprill, for  
those yong Pigeons then broode, will bee  
the fattest and tenderest Doves of all their  
broodes for that yeare.  
And Columella sayth, after this order  
ye must feede both Calvers and house-  
doves, and because of such great profite by  
them, I will here (sayth hee) say little, but  
cheefelye it pertayneth to a good Farmer,  
to have these sort of fowle, because there  
is small charge to feede them in open we-  
ther, for then they will flye abrode farre  
from

## gouernment of Poultrie.

from the house, to seeke eche corner of the field for meate, and soone returne agayne, yet notwithstanding for two or thre moneths they must be fedde as is aforesayde for so shall ye better maintayne and saue them, and being nye villages and greate colonies, is dangerous for taking with nettes, and killing diuers other wayes, therefore in such times the best is, to feede them in the Dove house at noone, for then is the best time.

Also flower not your Dove house with earth, for that is to cold in Winter, whereby they will not like so well to feede thereon, it is best therefore to feede them on nye places, with winnowes, towards the South, and the walles within made with holes one aboue another. Like your henhouse with pertitions of lath, some or both, for them to breede in, or in pottes of earth fastned against boords, for them to go and come at pleasure, and also your house and holes ought to be made white, for that colour pleaseth them well, and see alwayes to keepe your Dovehouse cleane, as afore is sayde.

Of

Of the meate and drinke for pe-  
gions and flying abroad.

Cap. 60.

**C**olumella sayth, when Pigeons do flie  
together about your house, it doeth re-  
ioyce them, and soone they returne againe  
to their pōg, their water ought to be like  
as for your hennes, not so as they may en-  
ter in deepe, but shallow for them to bathe  
in, for feare of chilling their egges, nor to  
ruine their egges, nor to couer their pong,  
also ye shall giue them meate besides the  
Duchouse dishouse, in some cleane place  
where there is no dung. The best grain  
for them is tresses, or pease, tares, and wheat  
and cockle seebe, and the rubbish yee cast  
out of wheate, and such thing as yee nou-  
rish the hennes, yee muste often cleanse and  
sweepe your Duchouse, for the cleaner  
it is kept, the better they like thereof, and  
where they are so kept, they will loue that  
house the better, and hate all other whiche  
are foule kept, and if they be able y they  
will flie awaye, and come no more there,  
which haue bene often seene and proued

and

And to remedy the same, there is an olde  
commandement of Democritus, whiche  
sayth: Take the young of a byrde called  
buse, which buildes with clay and durte,  
commonly vnder battlementes, put eache  
one of them in earthe pots by themselves.  
Then couer and stop the pottes close with  
playsterly, and so hang them in corners of  
the Douehouse, and that will make them  
loue the douehouse so, that they will neuer  
forsake it.

Also if ye will haue Pigeons to breede,  
let them not be olde, nor yet too young, and  
kepe those which hath large hobbies, where  
fore ye must not sepeare them before they  
haue brought forth their yong, and where  
so many are fedde together they are com-  
monly small of body, if they loyne with o-  
ther flightes, or with some ocher kynde  
the yong Pigeons doo bat best vnder their  
damnes, and when they are somewhat  
strong ready to flye, some pluckes their fe-  
thers, some breakes their legges, so that  
they shall not depart from the house, but  
then yee must feede well their dams that  
they may nourish well their yong, and  
some doth bynde their legges, for if they  
bryake them, as some suppose, it will bee

pathefull, and thereby they will waxe  
leane, wherein they say it is not best to fast  
them, and againe to binde their legges,  
they will strugle, and so torment themsel-  
ues, that will hinder also their fatting,  
therefore to breake their legges, their  
paine is no more but for two or three days  
at the most, and it taketh away all hope of  
going out, or flying abroad.

Also to feede Pigeons, take the scumme  
that comes of seething byrne, and the of-  
fall of dyegges of the byrne rubbe, & then  
take some dye and put them together, &  
worke it like a mortar, then put thereto  
olde chamber lye, and so make thereof Lo-  
ues, and lay them in your douehouse on a  
hoorde, and the pigeons will gladly feede  
thereon, and so shall ye haue them loue the  
douehouse better, also if ye mixe it with  
Comen seede, wilde tares, or cockle  
seed, it will be the better, and  
they will haue a more  
loue vnto the  
house.

**How**

## gouernment of Poultrie.

¶ How to perfume your Douchouse, to  
cause them to breede and to loue  
it. *Cap. 61.*

Stephanus sayth: if ye often perfume  
your douchouse with Genouer or Rose-  
mary, and sometimes with a little fran-  
kensence, or with some Lauender, these  
will make them to loue the Douchouse  
more then any other, and those Doves  
which ye haue made tame, when they doe  
begin to breede, yee must then giue them  
libertie, and cast along by the wals small  
grain or seedes, or where they vse to bathe  
them, and so they will bring manie other  
vnto them, beside your twentie payre that  
ye firste put in, that within fortye days ye  
maye haue two or thre times so manie  
more, for they breede thre times in a yere  
and the good breeders foure times a yere,  
and there is no great care for them, but to  
keepe your douchouse cleane, and cleane  
the nestes of the olde and yong, to keepe  
them from fleas and lyce, and other

Clermine, more needfull in

Sommer then in  
winter.

I.ii.

¶ Pegions

Regions seeking their meate farre, are  
raueners of corne.

Cap. 62.

**C**olumella sayth, Regions are greate  
raueners, and farre fliers to seeke meate,  
commonly foure or fife miles, sometimes  
ten miles, yea some doe suppose they will  
seeke fozeie miles, and come agayne at  
nighte, which thing I scantly credite, yet  
surelye they are strong and swifte fowle of  
flighte, and wil continue long in the ayre,  
agayne, some doe say, put a payre of doves  
in a house, and let them lacke no meate nor  
water, and they will deuoure a quarter  
of wheate, and a Tonne of water in one  
yeare, therefore they are calde rauening  
byrdes, deuourers of Corne, and reapers  
in fieldes, viziters of reekes, glemers of  
sheaves, and theues in Barnes, notwithstanding if ye will not so mayntayne your  
dovehouse, ye must let flie the first breede,  
(as is afore sayde) in Marche and Aprill  
because þe thow many occasiōs in a yere  
many kill your olde doves, and by that  
meanes your Dovehouse is replenished a-  
gayne.

To

To draw Peregions to your Doue-  
house. Cap. 63.

Some doe teache, take and rost a spayde  
bitche, take forth her guts, and fill her  
belly with Commine seede, mixte with  
haye sault, and when she is well and dye  
rosted, let her be colde, then lay her in the  
midst of your Douehouse, on a hye boorde  
and ye shall see the Doves will eate of her  
gladly, and so manye other Doves that  
smelles them whiche haue eaten thereof,  
they will come to the Douehouse wyth  
them.

Agayne to make a paste or slime mat-  
ter to cause Peregions to resorte to your  
Douehouse, which is: Take so much as  
ye thinke good of a gumme whiche the  
Italians cal *Sorgo*, or *Meige*, which grow-  
eth as hie as *Warsenippes*, or *Commune*,  
and it beareth a bigger seede, boyle of the  
sayde gumme in *Commune* water, and  
when it hath sodde and is slime like buck  
lie, ye shall put therto a quantyty of *Com-  
mine*, and some honye, and then giue it a  
boyle or two more, and sit it alwayes for  
burning

burning too. Take of this being all hote,  
 and annoynt the holes of your Dovehouse  
 therewith, so that the pegions in going in  
 and out, may rubbe their feete and legges  
 thereon (which sent will dure for certayne  
 dayes after) and so many other as do smell  
 the same, will followe them to the house,  
 and after they will not depart fro thence,  
 also to laye in your Dovehouse y stalkes  
 of Lauender cutte a shaftment long, the  
 Doves will gather them to build their  
 neastes, and thereby will smell thereof,  
 which will cause other Doves (so manye  
 as do smell them) come to their dovehouse,  
 and for the like some to take of sand stones  
 (which is a soft greete) and boyles of them  
 in hyne to soke, and then layes them on a  
 table in the Dovehouse, and the Pegions  
 will feede thereon, some pours on the said  
 stones the scumme that comes of boylde  
 hyne, which the Doves will like well, o-  
 ther doe vse to laye on a boorde of faulte  
 stones, which the Pegions will feede on,  
 and it wil cause them not to seeke faare a-  
 broade, others do vse to soke of soft byrches,  
 in hyne, and then layes them on a boorde  
 in the dovehouse, and Pegions will feede  
 thereon,

## gouernment of Poultrie.

theron, al these are thought good to train  
dones to the house.

¶ The nature and profite of wood pegi-  
ons, Culuers, and rough footed  
dones. *Cap. 64.*

**C**olumella sayth, the Wood Pigion is  
soone perceiued from other dones, they  
are not so fruitefull to lay as hennes, and  
yet more profitable, for they will haue  
yong viii. times a yere, and if the females  
be good nurses, the young will not bee  
leane, and if they be faire, leane or barrain  
ye may fatte them like hennes, and sell  
them, in like manner ye may fat Wood-  
culuers, but they are more raueners and  
eaters then the other, and verie harde to  
make tame, if they be olde, they loue so-  
ked bread in wine, and that will soone fat  
them, but ye must not forget to lay of gra-  
uell for them to bask in, the Woodculuer  
loues in winter to eat of yule berries, and  
they loue to breed on low Trees, & will  
haue but two yong at once.

The rough footed Dove, as some iudge,  
comes of the wylde kynd, and yet they are

to be made as tame as hennes, they are great eaters, and are very hote of nature, they lay and bring forth yong viii. or ten times a year, if they be well fedde. They wil neuer haue passing two yong at once, or one alone, and as soone as the henne hath hatched, she will suffer to be taken awayne of the Cock, they are louing birdes one to another, and the Cock will sitte on the eggs while the henne feedeth abroad, and hee will feede the henne in sitting (as the Rookes doe) and also he will feede the yong peking.

**Howe to take Owles that haunt your**  
**Donehouses. Cap. 6.**

**O**wles that haunt your Donehouse by night, they destroy many Doves both olde and yong. To take them, some do set a ladder to the roofe of the house afore the sunne goe downe, and somewhat darke, they tye on both sides of the roofe, a deade dove, and layes their bellies upward, and doe sticke lime roddes in claye rounde about them, or lime straws, and thereby takes them, and some ties a line p[er]son a

## gouernment of Poultie.

pretpe waye of the house on the grounde,  
and stickes lyme rods rounde aboute her,  
or prick stickes halfe a yeaerde hve from  
the grounde, and puts small packthreede  
lined in the clauen toppes of the rodde,  
other takes them in wedging a moule  
taylor in the hole of a boord, and layes that  
on the ground, or ties a bird with a string  
on the ground, and pricks lyme rods about  
hir, and so takes them, in a lighte Moone-  
shine night, in a darke night they lay for  
the owle in the owle flight, for the is best  
setting for them: if she enter into the house  
she kilt h all she can, both olde and yong,  
and will remayne there, for shee cannot  
get forth agayne at the Louer, and shee  
will commonly feede of the forepart, the  
necke and the shoulders, by that ye maye  
knowe it is an Owle, and she will be and  
lie all day in one of the holes. Thus much  
for the taking of the Owle, there is also  
calle to make them come to the place in  
treading time, but I haue not the  
practise thereof, therefore  
here I will leaue  
with it.

¶ For

## The nourishing and

**F**or Polecats and Weazels that haunt  
your Douehouse. Cap. 66.

**I**f Vermine haunt your Douehouse, as  
Fechons, kenes, Polecats, Weazels and  
such, ye must marke the holes where they  
get in to your Douehouse. There ye shall  
set a whiche or fall of foure foote long,  
close by the Douehouse side, then ye shall  
hedge it so that nothing shall passe any o-  
ther waye, but if your Whiche or fall bee  
staynde in taking or scaping of any of the,  
they will not come to the bayte within on  
the burge, which ye shall bayte with a new  
conye liuer, or such like, if that serue not  
then set your fall in some other place, or  
there, and hedge it, and couer it with thorn-  
nes, that they may passe no other way but  
thorow the fall, and after any is taken ye  
must clense and aye your fal or Whiche  
if this serue not, ye shall put the powder of  
Arsenike into the slits of liuers, and that  
will popson them, but see that no other  
thing come there to eat it, before ye take  
it vp, and thus ye maye destroye them in  
short space, if ye keepe the outsidess smoot  
tha

## gouernment of Poultrie.

that no Measill climbe by into the house,  
from time to time. Other wayes there is  
by setting pottes in the grounde, w<sup>th</sup>  
bayte in them, and with a fall, like a pit-  
fall.

**To take Bozardes and stares, that  
molest your Douehouse.**

Cap. 67.

**T**he Bozarde, and Puttock, that haue  
your Douehouse, will sodayne strike  
at your Doves sitting on the house, and  
so kille many, when any such doe haunte  
your Douehouse, ye shall set stales of liue  
Doves on the ground with limed straws,  
or tye a liue mouse and wedge her tayle  
into a stick compassed with thre graynes  
or twigges lymbe, then laye it on the  
grounde a pretie way of the Douehouse,  
and wathe it, and ye shall see her strike at  
it, and so be taken, and likewise set limbe  
straws about your douehouse on y<sup>e</sup> ground  
or small limbe twigges, thus yee maye  
take them in the spring. Againe, Stares  
will commonly haunc a douehouse in the  
winter time chiefly, which do molest the  
Doves

## The nourishing and

doues in driving them from place to place  
and beating them out of their holes, and  
if it be colde, they will couet to sitte vnder  
the Doues Wings, and being hote of  
nature themselves, will make the doues  
so hote, that thereby they will become lea-  
pers, and they will haue dye-spottes on  
them like pockes, therefore when you see  
Stares haunt your Douehouse, in the  
night ye shall couer the louver that no Pe-  
gion go out, and then go in with a Lant-  
hozne, for they will flie to the light, and so  
with clapnets ye may take them, and they  
will kill the yong, and also suck y<sup>e</sup> Doues  
egges.

### How to Cock your Douehouse. Cap. 63.

SOME sayth, if a Douehouse do remaine  
foure or fife yere withoute taking the  
old cocks, they will not prosper nor breed,  
because of so many old Cocks altho, which  
cannot treade themselves, nor yet will suf-  
fer the yong Cocks to treade their hens.  
Therefore some doe couer the louver, and  
in a winters night goeth in with a candle  
and lanthorne, and with a bush net take

## gouernment of Poultrie.

all þ̄ comes, and puts thē in baskets, and so chuse out al the old Cocks, and kills thē, and lets the rest remayne, which old cocks ye shal know by their gret bodies & heads for they are bigger then the yonger, and they will haue a ring of blew whitish feathers about their neckes, and the young cocks will haue none. Agayne, some do set a ladder befoze night to the louver, and in the night one or two goeth vp the ladder with a lanthorn and light, and couers the louver hole with a net, and sets the light by the Louer, then one kiookes at the doore beneath, or else goeth in, then wil þ̄ doves come to the light, and euer as they come, take the olde Cokes and kill them, but this waye (as some iudge) is not so good as the other, for they will bruse thēselues in flying agaynst the postes and walles, in the darke house, and some do holde opinion to lette them alone is best, withoute taking the olde Cokes, for I haue harde some saye, that after their Cocking their Dovehouse haue not bene so prosperous as befoze. Wherein here ye may chuse which waye best to take. Thus much for the cocking your Dovehouse.

¶ Of

Of Pigion dongue. Cap. 69.

**T**he nature and proptye of Pigion dongue is to heate the earth, therefore keepe wel their dongue ye take out of the Pigion house, and meddle it when ye list with cowe dongue, or other hoxse dongue, and it doth moze then Sheepe dongue, for Pigion dongue is very hote, whiche will serue to amende colde and naked places, in your fieldes or medowes, and also to refresh and sucket olde trees agaynst colde and weat.

Of Turtle Doues. Cap. 70.

**C**olumella sayth, to nourishe Turtles for profite, it is superfluous, for they will laye no egges in your Cages nor hatche yong, therefore from the time you haue taken them, they keepe them to fatten moze sooner then manye other Byrds, but not in all times of the yeare a like, for in winter there is great care to fatten them, and in this time there is moze plenty, and the price doeth diminish, in Sommer they

## gouernment of Poultrie.

they will fatte themselves if they haue  
meate to eate, there is no other payn but  
to feede them with mil wheate, not because  
they will not fatte with other wheate, but  
because they loue myl wheate better, and  
yet in Winter they are as soone made fat  
(as Woodde Culuers) with sops of breade  
soked in Wyne, and like with other thin-  
ges, and they do not entreate them like o-  
ther Regions, in holes, but stones sette in  
the walles, not with partitions, but as  
staples for them to sit on, they must be clo-  
sed with nettes rounde, that they flie not  
forth, and thus they vse to fat them with  
mil wheate, and other wheate which must  
be giuen dyse, halfe a bushell a daye is y-  
nough for ffre score Turtles and alwayes  
they must haue freshe water in cleane ves-  
sels, and see that their dongue marre not  
their feete, which donge is good to keepe  
for the fattning of trees, as all other byrdes  
haue those that swim, and to fatte these, ye  
must chuse the pongest rather then the ol-  
dest, also about harvest, the pong Turtles  
are big ynough to fat, then they vse to fat  
them.

Stephanus sayeth, those fowle are re-  
ther

ther to be nourished then to breed. They  
are vfed as Fozannes, with bzanches ap-  
plied to the wales, and fastned wia, with  
doores hard by, also in the corners ye shal  
make places for them to peache on, and  
set bzanches of Genoper and Bayes, a-  
bout your trees set agaynste the walles,  
also yee shall fasten small pampers to the  
walles, to tyce them to laye, if they haue  
any desire thereto.

And yee shall place your couer for your  
cage the height of a man, and places made  
rounde for them to rooste vnder, & strawde  
with fresh straw, renewing it often, and  
make places for the to eat, with troughe  
for them to drinke in, and chaunge it ofte.  
They loue the hote ayre, in colde tymes  
they passe the Seas in flockes, from one  
countrey to another, they are made tame  
as our house poultrie, which is very hard  
to doe, for they are not to be fedde, butt for  
the delicatenesse of them in feastes & ban-  
quets. The Turtle is more easie to make  
tame, then other Quayles or Partrich  
and to fat also if they be taken yong, and  
by giuing them wine, they make the for  
ge their libertie, for they will bee ver  
ang

angry when they are faste take, and they  
neuer laye inclosed, nor fat scantly in win-  
ter, they are contrary to other foule, as  
Geese and such, their nourishment is fet-  
ches, barley and moiste of other grayne, ye  
shall giue freshe water in a vessell, so they  
may haue therein, and lay by of grauylpe  
sande to scower and heale them, whē they  
are sicke, and looke to their billes for the  
pippe, and take it away if there be anye,  
also looke to their feet for troubling with  
their dongue, and also vnder their wings,  
if they haue any vermine, yee must helpe  
them as you doe your poultrie.

**The ordering and fattening of hearnes.**

*Cap. vii.*

**S**tephanus sayth, I haue afore resited  
of the great curiositie of diuerse kinds  
of fowles to nourish, and here agayne I  
must saye the like of the hearne, for shee is  
but expence, without profite to any. True  
it is, for princes and great Lords, to tame  
so flye for pleasure, otherwise the hearne  
alone, it is but the vaine mouth to eat  
the flesh, as y<sup>e</sup> saying of some is, the hearne  
is a roppall meate, but this pleasure costs

¶

double

double charge, for the is a greete spoiler  
and deuourer of fishe, we may think them  
the father of a familie in houtholde, be it  
Prince or great Lord will sometyme take  
pleasure in the sight of the hearne, or for  
his mounth, there is no other reason to bee  
made, then for to make a place to keepe  
them in, not onely for pleasure, but also  
profite for his Lord or master, nowe to  
make this place to fatten them and keepe  
them in bondage, which loues dayly to be  
aboue alone, and solitarie in their mynde,  
and yet not rest long in a place, excepte it  
please them well, for the is waywarde,  
fearefull, and delights to builde on hyghe  
Trees, a place for them may well be made  
for two occasions, one to nourishe them in  
for the pleasure of the Prince, and agayne  
to haue them ready at neede for anye ban-  
quet, and those that are so closed, will call  
others that flie by, and cause the to bryede  
thereabouts.

Also ye must consider of the place meete  
for them, to keepe them in, for if it raine  
not there sometime, the will take no plea-  
sure therein, nor yet bryede, but mourne,  
and so pyne and die, also ye must haue a

running

## gouernment of Poultrie.

running water thorowe the midst of your  
court or place, for the Pearn is a watrish  
Fowle, and hath pleasure for to looke for  
fishe in waters, to take Eeles and other  
small fishe. The place for them oughte to  
be conered all ouer with lathes, set nye to-  
gether, and walde or boarded rounde, like  
foote hye, so that other Pearnes if they  
will may make their neastes thereon, and  
their feeding shall be liue Eeles, or cutte,  
and cast in water, and to giue other small  
fishe, sometimes the entrailes and liuers  
of beastes cutte small, or dogges fleshe cut  
and giuen them, to satte for flighte or ban-  
quet. they will not lightly breede beeing  
in bondage, they be a pleasure for flying,  
but not to let flye nie their Court, for the  
rest will be afrayde, and those that come  
there to breede they will forsake the place  
and builde there no more.

¶ The ordering and nourishing of Par-  
tridges. Cap. 22.

**T**he Partridge is a vayneable Byrd, and  
liues in felde among bushes and hed-  
ges, the Cokes are stoute and hard of na-

ture, and the hennes also, and will laye a-  
 boue twentie egges at a time, and bring  
 forth their yong, they breede but once a  
 yeare, which is in the spring, the Cokes  
 will fight for their hennes, and he whiche  
 hath the victorie will constrayne the other  
 Cokke to follow him and run after him, as  
 doth the henne, their feeding is very dainty  
 with millet wheat, or of pannick wheat  
 or other wheate, also if ye take the Par-  
 tridge egges and set them vnder a henne  
 that sittech, she will hatch them and bring  
 them forth and nourishe them like house  
 chickens, they must bee fedde with antes  
 egges, till they be of a more strength, and  
 of a good bignesse, then ye may feede them  
 as ye doe house chickens, and those which  
 ye so nourishe and feede, ye may easely  
 keepe them tame in your Courtes, and  
 they will breede from tyme to tyme, and  
 nourishe their yong, if ye helpe them with  
 antes egges, whyle they are yong, and  
 ye must make pretie places on the ground  
 for them to breede in, and couered with  
 boughes, for they loue commonly not to  
 be seene or haue any to looke and beholde  
 them, ye must gyue them of freshe water,  
 morning

## gouernment of Poultrie.

morning and evening, & keepe their court  
cleane.

**¶** Quayles feeding and their nature.

*Cap. 73.*

**Q**uayles are a vayne fleshe vfed for  
vanquers, they are of nature furious  
fighters, and currishe, therefore they that  
keepe them, let not them haue so much li-  
bertie as other fowles haue, nor yet so  
muche light, therefore they couer their  
cages with canuas, or leather, for moun-  
ting and busying their wings agaynst the  
sides of the Cage, they put their meat and  
drinke in vessels a part, each Quayle by  
himselle, whiche will make them sooner  
to fatte, they loue to eat greene wheate,  
and also of other wheate, whiche is their  
principall meate. They vse much that  
circuite where they are commonly bred,  
they breede in Corne feldes, and in pa-  
stures, they will haue five or sixe at a time  
and breede but once a yeare, they loue the  
place whereas there groweth much elle-  
borpe, called nesting powder, of some:  
whereof Didimus sayeth, their flesh is lar-  
acue, and also will make ones head heauy

and also will make ones heade heavy and euill, and for this cause some doe searce them with Wheate, and boyles them wel therewith, if any find greefe thereby, they drinke the decoction that millet is sodd in or the seede of Myrr, which is good also to giue Quayles to eat, the yong loues to be feeding among grasse, to be picking on flies and such. The same yee maye vse them to a call, as ye doe your chicken.

¶ The Gullies how to feede.

Cap. 74.

**G**ullies doe bryede in the rockes, and bankes of the Sea, in extreame cold weather they flye from the Sea into the Lande, and liues on mountaynes and playnes, and they feede there on wormes and suche as they canne get, and they that doe fatte them doe take them readie to fly, in holes and rockes by the Sea syde, and then they feede them, the old are not good to fatte, they feede both with fishe & fleshe, as the liuers of beastes, and fresh sea fishe as place and such, cutte in smal peeces and giuen them, their vessel of water oughte to

to be pannes of earth, filde with fayre wa-  
ter, then lay therein brickbattes or stones  
that they bathe not therein, for they will  
despye to bathe, and that will keepe them  
leanne, their meate must be chopte rewe,  
and layde on boordes, and they commonly  
fights (and crye) one with another, and  
they be great raueners, and oughte to be  
fedde twice or thise a daye with sweete  
meate, and they vse to laye it in fayre wa-  
ter to keepe it sweete two or thre dayes,  
they breede but once a yere, and will haue  
foure or five in a nest, or moze.

¶ Of Plets. Cap. 75.

**P**lets are byrdes or fowle that breedes  
in Rocks and bankes by the Sea, they  
are taken young from the nestes like the  
Gulles, and fedde for banquetts, they are  
a dayntie fleshe, and pleasaunte to eate.  
They are kepte to fatte in large houses  
and courtes, for some doe vse to put them  
in patts, for they will fight like p gullies,  
one with another, and those that they in-  
tende to eate shortlye, they feede them a  
parte with curdes, for that will soone fat

¶.iiii. them

them, and make their flesh whyte, spotted,  
and fayne, so will not those fed with flesh,  
as hawks of Oxen and sheep, finallye hope  
as is aforesaid of gullles & layd on fayne  
boord twice a day, for they are ravenous,  
& to giue the fayne water, laid with fibres  
like as ye do for Gullles aforesaid, for bar  
thing will kepe the lean, & they byerde but  
once a yere, & haue 5 or 6 at a time, or moe.

**O**f Fesantes and their nature. *Lib. 2. c. 1.*  
Stephanus sayth, it is a great curiositie  
to nourishe the olde Fesantes which Co  
lumella doth name them hens of *Nympha*  
but for those þ may feede them, it is both  
pleasure and profite, but ye must haue one  
to doe no other thing, for they require  
great attendaunce, & ye must make their  
Court some what hye, set also with boordes  
agaynst the walles, round about þ court  
in length, & their pearche made so, to lye  
where the sunne may shine, and each byrd  
his place, and also to haue one generall  
house to clense the hens, and to giue them  
meate, and closed all aboue, & before with  
laths very nie together, about the height  
of a pole from the earth well couered all o  
uer, also the Fesant, Cocks and hennes,  
are

## gouernment of Poultrie.

are byrds of a stoute courage, and are not content to be enclosed or made caille, if they bee aboue a yere olde, and the olde hennes are greened, and disdayneth to lay or sit, and the yong wil not so soone agree with the ayre, bring so constrained thereto because it is not, lyke the Region from whence they were take, also there must be giuen to one male two females, the males laye but once a yere and the begins in Marche, and layth some twentye egges by order, of the stint, and then they sit on all together, of ye may giue them of hys, and the rest of other straunge egges if ye will, the sittes thirtye dayes, and in setting them yee must haue the lyke viltage as of your house hennes, and these must not bee without their houses, and the yong being once hatched, shal haue a mixture made of sodde barleye blame, then bolde and giuen, and to giue them wheate meal, the whiche yee shall sometymes mixe together and so giuen, sometimes of rashoppers, and the egges of Ants, and then to change their water to haue it still cleane, for they are subiecte vnto the like diseases as the house hennes are.

¶ How

The nourishing and

How to fat Fezantes. Cap. 77.

The auncientes did vse to fat and nourish the Fezantes, both Cokes and hennes not onely for increase, but as well for feasts and banquets, and in the beginning they giue them water and wine mixte together, to make them forget their natural place and then they feede them with barlie meale steeped in water, and ground beanes, and stiepen barlye mixte together with millet, and also naues and linseed boyled, then dryde, and mixte with barlye meale, and likewise to heate them and purge them, they did vse to giue them figs nigreke the space of foure dayes, and so they were clenched and mude in forty dayes, and thus some keepe them that are of skil. Mellis sayeth, ye may well giue them meale to fat them for banquets, for few or none being wyld beanes are giuen to lay, or sit being kept in bondage and bredde by a wyld beane.

## gouernment of Poultrie.

### ¶ Of Godwits, Knots, and Stynts.

Cap. 78.

**T**he Godwits, and Knots are taken yong, they breed in holes and Rocks in by the Sea, and also in Ilandes nye the Sea, they are esteemed a dayntie meate, and pleasaunt, and coslye to keepe, and make fatte, for they are commonlye fedde with Wheate, and fayre water other feeding I haue not knowne.

### ¶ Of Plouers. Cap. 79.

**T**here are two kynge of Plouers, the one is called the greene Plouer, which we cal the Lapwing, and the other is called the gray Plouer which breeds in Ilandes by the Seas, or in great beaches, and marishe groundes, and also the greene Plouer breeds commonlye in marishes, lapbeaches, fieldes, and such, they breed but once a yeaere, and when they lay as in Marehe and Aprill, they will not haue lest foure or fye yong, their feeding is commonly on Wormes and flies and such  
as

## The nourishing and

as they can get, they will hardly be made tame being enclosed, for they are a wylde kinde of pennishe byrdes to tame. They are fedde with wheate and Water, like the other fowle aforesayde, the yong greene Plouer is easier to make tame, and they be to kepe the in gardens to kill wormes and giues them wormes and water, but then beware the Kite and the Catte, thus muche for the Plouers.

## ¶ Of the Bitter and Curlew. Cap. 80.

**T**he Bitter is a strange kinde of fowle, and liues commonlye in Fenmes, and in moorish heathes, they are euill to be made tame. Their fleshe is pleasaunte to Eate, and are kept for banquets, they are fed with raw liuers of beasts, & such lyke, they are yrefull, and will strike sodaynly at a mans face, and stand lurking in a corner like the heath, & they feare the sight of a mans face, and those that doe eat them they doe cram them with raw fleshe cutt in small peeces, which they will call it by agayne. Therfore when ye cramme them ye must put a double thycede over his bill.

## government of Poultrie.

to passe his nostrils, and thorow his nostrils put a small sticke or quill, and that will keepe the threed up, and let him from casting vpp his meate agayne, if that were not, he woulde cast it vppe inconci-  
nent.

The Curlew is a fowle that feeds com-  
monlye in moyste groundes and heathes,  
their flesh is plesant to eat, they feed com-  
monly on woymes and such, and they fat  
them with wheate and sayze water, other  
feeding I know not what is best for them,  
Thus much for the Bitter & the Curlew.

## Of Blackburdes and Thrushes. Cap. 81.

The Blackbyrde is a dayntie fleshe to  
eate, & they are moze charable to keepe  
then many others, & they that shall keepe  
them in cages being taken old, & brought  
from other countreies, they are hardly sa-  
ued to be transported, also if ye put the old  
to be fed in cages, some therof wil sodain-  
ly die of enuy and feare, when they are ta-  
ken of the Fowler and put to fatte, there-  
fore the best remedye is, ye shall take  
of some Blackbyrds and put vnto y wild,  
and

## The nourishing and

and whē they are accustomed to be serued,  
the wyldē in seeing the tame feede, they  
will feede also, and so forget their anger  
and libertie, and thus ye may best bring  
the wilde to be tame, and to receiue theyr  
meate with the other.

Also their cages must be made toward  
the South, with pearches of woode set in  
the walles to sit and ppyne, when they  
haue eaten, and ye must not set their pear-  
ches aboue a mans heighth, that in stan-  
ding on the ground they may touch them,  
ye shall not feede them where their pear-  
ches are, for keeping their meat moze cle-  
ner without their dongue, and for their  
meate, some do vse to feede them with dry  
figges, and barlye flower beaten togea-  
ther, and giue them thereof, so they may  
leane some, also sometimes they chewe it  
in their mouthes, and so giues it vnto the,  
but where as many are, it is not quite con-  
uenient to feede them, and other some are of opini-  
on to feede and giue them of diuers kinds  
of meate is good, for feare if they should  
be weary of one meate, as sometimes  
giue them wormes, antes, wheate, hard  
egges and soaked breade in water, and the  
seede

## gouernment of Poultrie.

seedes of wylde cates, or Charuel seedes,  
or wylde Olives, or puite berryes, and  
wylde Apples, for when they are in the  
Woods, they eate of all these, but in  
their Cages it will trouble them, and yet  
cause them to prouoke appetite, whiche is  
necessarpe, for the more they eate, the soo-  
ner they will be fatte, and ye shall fill also  
their vessels with mill wheate, whiche  
is the cheefest meate for their delight, the  
other doe serue but as sauce of pleasure,  
their drinke ought to be cleare water and  
often chaunged, and thus ye may fatte the  
blackebyrde, so may ye nourishe and fatte  
the Thrustle, and Fielofare, other byrdes  
there is, whiche are not so necessarpe to  
be fed, nor yet so profitable. Thus I leaue  
for the gouerning and fattening of Black-  
byrdes and Thrustles, with all

the gouernment of poul-  
trie and Fowle a-

foresayde.

(.)

To

**To make white byrdes come of any  
egges. Cap. 82.**

**T**ake your egges of what byrd ye wil,  
and lay them two dayes long in honye,  
and then put them agayn in the nest, and  
let them be sat on, and ye shall haue them  
whyte.

**To make hens of the colour of your  
egges ye set her. Cap. 83.**

**Y**e shall take some Egges of a broode  
henne, and colour them with what  
colour ye will, and put them to the henne,  
and ye shall see the Chickens to be of the  
same colour ye coloured the egges.

**For Geese. Cap. 84.**

**I**f yee sette a Goose where as shee ca  
come by no water to bathe her, whe  
she riseth her egges then will not prospe  
nor come to any perfection, Also when  
goose haue satte her time, and cannot w  
bake and vnclose her egges, yee sha  
burn

burne the stalkes and leaues dyue of cole-  
moxtes before her neast, and persume her  
neast therewith, and soone after they shall  
vnclose and hatche, likewise if ye haue di-  
uers broode Geese, and but one Gander,  
some Ganders will loue but one or two  
Geese and hate the rest, therefore it shall  
be good to haue mo Ganders then one to  
serue their Goslings, for when the Goose  
leades and goes afore her yong, the crowe  
will take some behynde hir, and therfore  
ye shall see the Gander come behynde his  
goslinges, and thereby saues manye from  
the Crows and Kites.

¶ To make hennes lay.

**T**O cause hennes to laye al the winter,  
take the croppes of nettles when they  
are readye to seede, then drie them, and  
mix them with bran and hempeseede, and  
to giue it your hennes a morninges, and  
they will lay, yee may also giue them the  
seeds of Commake, a weede amongst  
orne so calde in Turnars Herball, whiche  
will also cause them to lay.

L.

¶ For

## For breeding Capons.

**A**nd those that woulde breede manye  
Capons, ye must not then haue anye  
Cock that is vled to fighte, for then hee  
will alway beate your Capons, and  
not suffer them to be at rest  
but hunt & kill them  
at length.

(.)

*Finis.*

*The*

*The table of all the princi-  
pall matters in this Booke, following  
by Alphabet.*

*A.*

*A* Gaynste the pippe. Cap. 13.

*B.*

Bytters how to make fat. 80.

Blackbyrdes how to nourish. 81.

Bozardesthat haunt douchouses. 67.

*C.*

Capons how to fat 25.

Catarre or rewme in poultrie. 14.

Caruing of poultrie. 31.

Caruing yong chickens. 23.

Chickens newly hatched. 7.

Chickens of a later broode. 11.

Chickens fed from the Dam. 12.

Cocking of a Douchouse. 68.

Culuers and their nature. 64.

Curlewes how to feede. 80.

*L. ij.*

*D.*

**D.**

Dongue of Pegions profitable.	69
Ducks profitable for the husband.	41
Ducks vvild to nourish.	42
Ducks and their nature.	42.

**E.**

Egges to keepe long	8.
Egges how to gather and saue.	9
Egges vvithout a Cock.	9.
Egs to make vvwhite byrdes.	82.
Egs to haue all the vvinter.	10.
Eyes enflamed of poultrie.	24.

**F.**

Fatting of Capons.	25.
Feeding great Chickens.	28.
Feeding yong poullets.	29.
Feeding of poultrie.	26
Fieldfares how to feede.	82
Fethers of geese vvwhich are best.	40.
Fezants how to fat.	77
Fezantes and their nature.	76.

Flux

luxie in poultrie to helpe. 18.

G.

Ganders vvhite are the best. 36.  
 Geese and their gouernment. 33.  
 Geese and places fit for them. 34.  
 Geese vvhhat pasture best. 35.  
 Geese al white are the best. 36.  
 Geese yong how to fat. 37.  
 Geese yong to fat. 38.  
 Geese how many to one gander. 39.  
 Goslings how to feede. 37.  
 Godwits how to nourish. 78.  
 Goules how to nourish and fat. 74.

H.

haw in the eyes of poultrie. 24.  
 henhouse to order and make. 1.  
 hens with their good properties. 4.  
 hens vvhhen best to set them. 5.  
 hens yong to set. 6.  
 hens how many meete for a cock. 15.  
 hens that vse to hatche abroad. 16.  
 henoes that sit and rise in weate vveare  
 ther. 22.

# The Table.

Hennes of the colour of the egges y<sup>e</sup>  
set her. 63

Hens how to make fat. 27

Hearns to nourish and to fat. 71

*K* knots how to feede. 78

*L* Lice & varmine in poultie. 20

Letting forth poultry a mornings. 30

*M* Meete when to feede poultry. 20

*O* Ordning Poultrie a mornings. 3

Owles that haunt a Douchouse. 6

*P* Partridge how to nourish. 7

Perfuming the douchouse. 6

Pegions to draw to the douchous. 4

Pegios with profit & place for the. 5

Pegio

Pegions to replenish your house.	58
Pegions and best breeders.	58
Pegions to feede and maintaine.	59
Pegions that fly abroad to feede.	60
Pegions that seeke their meate farre.	62.
Pegions and their nature.	64.
Peacockes and the goodnes of their fleshe.	52.
Pehens their nature in laying.	52.
Pechickes hatching and feeding.	53.
Pehens and their sicknes.	54.
Pegins dong good for trees.	69.
Pippe the cause and remedy.	13.
Plouers how to nourishe.	79.
Polecats that haunt doue houses.	66.
Pucts how to fatte.	75.

Quailes how to nourishe.	73.
--------------------------	-----

Rough footed doues to kepe.	64.
-----------------------------	-----

Sheldrakes to nourishe.	41.
-------------------------	-----

signes in a good Cock. 7  
 Stares that molest dones in their ho- 6  
 ses. 6  
 Stynts how to nourish. 7  
 Stopping the flux in poultrie. 1  
 Swans nature and feeding. 5  
 Swans how to nourish and feede. 5

**T.**

Teales how to nourish. 4  
 Threstles to fat. 8  
 Things good in keeping poultry. 3  
 Turquie hens and their profite. 4  
 Turquies to nourish. 45  
 Turquie cocks best treader. 46  
 Turquy hēs in hatchīg their yōg. 47  
 Turquy hens the order & feeding. 48  
 Turquie chickēs how to nourish. 48  
 Turquies the common feeding. 49  
 Turtle doues to nourish. 70

**W.**

**W**ezels that haunt a douchouse. 60

MUSEUM  
 BRITAN  
 NICVM

9  
6  
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